

the WHOLE Truth

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.

104th Convocation Edition and yet
we are still gathering to GOD be the glory

MEMPHIS INSIDER

Meet the new CFO

GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA

New Chairman takes charge...

Pastor's Corner

SUCCESSION PLANNING does WORK

Bishop Ernest C. Morris Sr.
& Dr. J. Louis Felton

FACES OF COGIC

Women At Work
more than a missionary

PEOPLE WORTH TALKING ABOUT

William "Bill" Wright
Triumph after Tragedy, I lost my son

ELDER RON R. OWENS

Sr. Editor, Whole Truth

It is absolutely true that every round does go higher and higher. In our second edition of the Whole Truth, we are both inspired and excited to present to the convocation an in-depth look at the faces, stories, memories, and inspirations of the diversity of our church. As the magazine expands, we've added C.O.G.I.C. news brief, which gives memorial to saints gone to glory and highlights those who have been elevated to the office of episcopal leader and the achievements of local congregations. Music Matters speaks to our lineage of being able to keep the beat and setting the trend at gospel music. We place

the bar on this sacred treasure to keep growing, expanding, and stretching. The Publishing House and the Whole Truth magazine, in future editions, look to expand the breath of our reach into the digital and cyber space. To have the world embrace the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ, through the heritage of our founder, Bishop Charles H. Mason. In the words of our Chief Apostle Rt. Rev. Charles E. Blake, "I see this magazine in the future and it looks much better."

-Chair, The Whole Truth Magazine

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speaks about the
significance of
Convocation dates*

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These feature articles will always exist as staples to guide the new Whole Truth.

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(5) issues for the low price of \$10.99

Dear Saints;

On behalf of the entire publishing board, I want to thank all of you for your cooperation and support. Over the last several years we have, with your assistance, achieved the objectives set out by the national church which is to create some of the finest Christian literature in the entire world. None of this would have been possible without the tremendous assistance of any number of people but more importantly, it is a reflection of our goal which is to consistently better serve you. A number of wonderful things have happened which I want to keep informed on:

1. **Website.** If you haven't looked, please go to our website at www.cogicpublishinghouse.net. It is a very easy way to order and it contains updates and other material important to you. Additionally, one of the features of the website, which is not located anywhere else in the church, is a reference to historical archives which you can participate in and enjoy.
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Because of your support the publishing board of the Church Of God In Christ has been able to serve millions of people. In fact, we have been able to add some new and positive features for you.

You can subscribe for your own copy of the Whole Truth on our website but, additionally, every church in the Church Of God In Christ Sunday School Department now receives a Whole Truth so it can also be immediately shared.

In other words, we have listened to you. You should be extremely proud that because of your support, we have taken important historical material of the church and fundamentally strengthened it. None of this would have been possible without your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Daniels".

Attorney, John W. Daniels, Jr.
Chairman of publishing house

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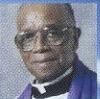
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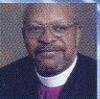
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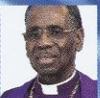
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UP FROM THE ASHES

The New York Times and the Boston Globe reported the dedication of the New Macedonia Church Of God In Christ in Springfield, Massachusetts.

The congregation embarked upon a rebuilding process in the same location after the church was set ablaze in November 2008, the night of the election of Barack Obama as President of the United States. Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr., the Presiding Bishop and Chief Apostle of the Church Of God In Christ was the special guest and performed the dedicatory service of the new worship edifice.

Bishop Bryant Robinson the Jurisdictional Prelate, and pastor of the New Macedonia Church Of God In Christ, welcomed Deval Patrick, the Governor of Massachusetts, as well as the Mayor of Springfield, Domenic J. Sarno. Both men gave expressions during the official grand opening on Saturday, September 24, 2011.

Three years after the tragic incident, the bonds of the people of New Macedonia, and the community of Springfield, and the State of Massachusetts have been made stronger.



Consecrated Auxiliary Bishops: 2011 Holy Convocation

Bishop Designate **Edgar Lewis Allen, Jr.**
Auxiliary Bishop, Illinois Sixth Jurisdiction

Bishop Designate **Cornelius Ellis Anderson, Jr.**
Auxiliary Bishop, North Carolina
Second Jurisdiction

Bishop Designate **Junious Augustus Blake Jr.**
Auxiliary Bishop, Southern California
First Jurisdiction

Bishop Designate **Welton Lee Lawrence**
Auxiliary Bishop, Canada /
Michigan Jurisdiction

Bishop Designate **Otis Lockett**
Auxiliary Bishop, North Carolina
Second Jurisdiction

National Trustee Board Member Appointed Pastor

During the 94th Annual Jurisdictional Holy Convocation of The Tennessee Headquarters Jurisdiction, the Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr., appointed the son of the late Bishop J. O. Patterson, Jr., pastor of the historic Pentecostal Temple Institutional Church Of God In Christ in Memphis, Tennessee.

Elder Charles Harrison Mason Patterson, Sr. is the son of the recently deceased Chairman of the General Assembly, Bishop J. O. Patterson, Jr., and the grandson of the first elected Presiding Bishop, Bishop J. O. Patterson, Sr., and the great-grandson of the Founder of the Church Of God In Christ, Bishop Charles Harrison Mason.

Elder Patterson takes the helm of this historic church, whose roots go back to our Sainted Father. He has been preaching since the age of 15 and was ordained an Elder by his father at age 21. Elder Patterson was elected to the National Board of Trustees during the 2004 Quadrennial Election of the Church Of God In Christ and has served faithfully for two consecutive terms. Elder Patterson also serves the National Church as the Superintendent of National Properties.

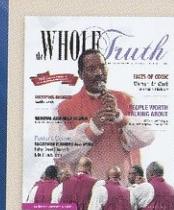
The members of the Pentecostal Temple church family have pledged their loyal support and prayers to Elder Patterson as he continues the legacy.



Bishop Designate **Frank Anthone White**
Auxiliary Bishop, Eastern New York
Third Jurisdiction

Whole Truth Subscription – Shout out to Elder Lawrence C. Blake, of the California Southern First Jurisdiction, for procuring more than 300 subscriptions for The Whole Truth Magazine

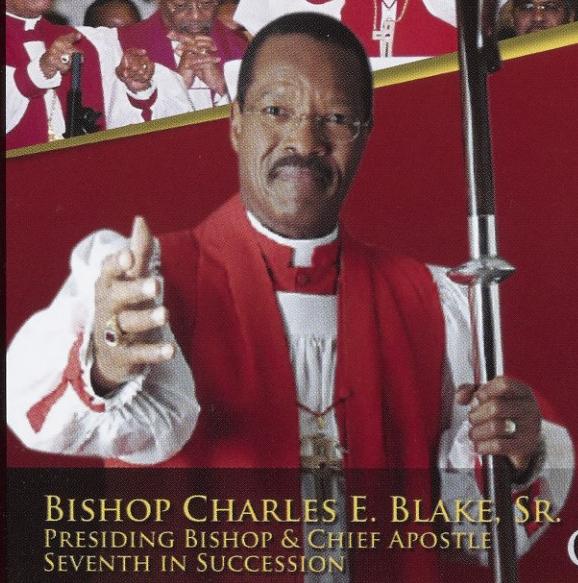
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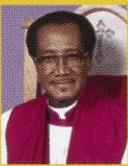


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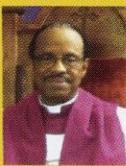
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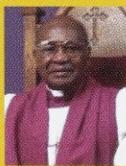
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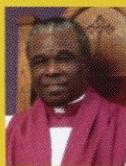
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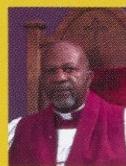
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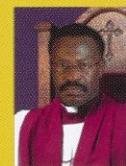
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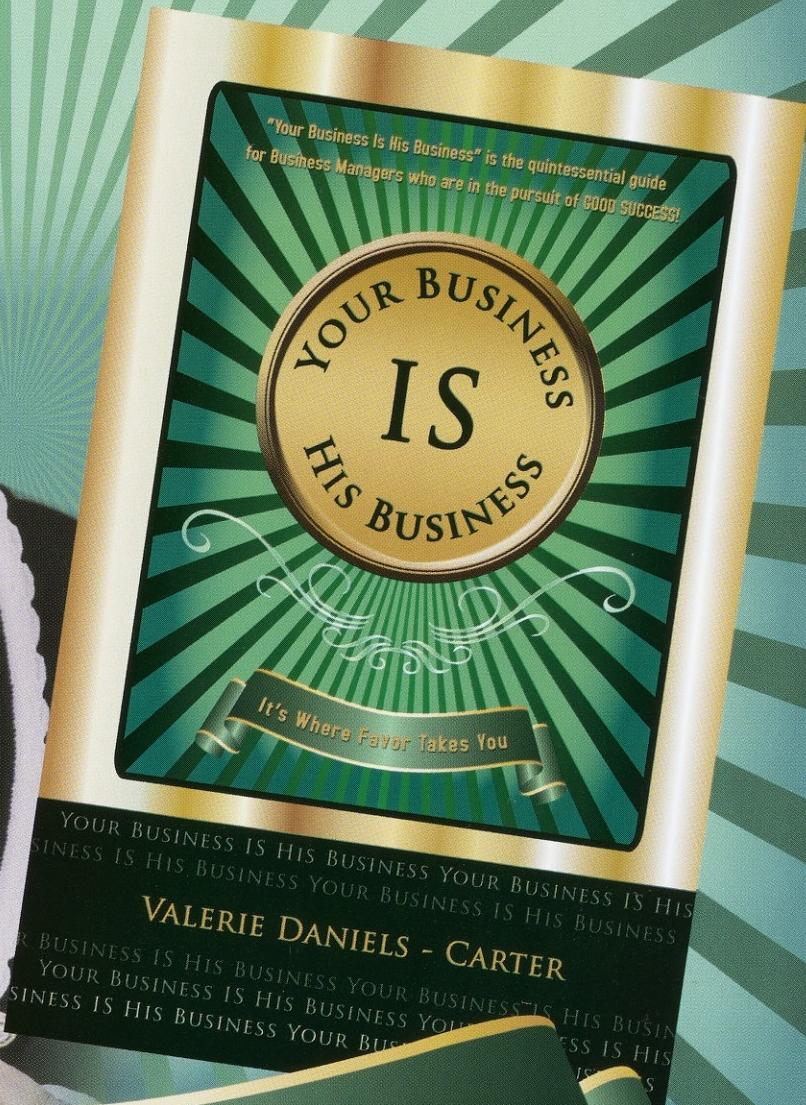


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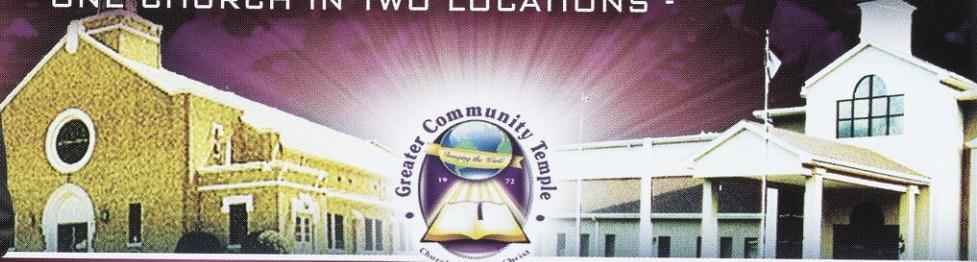
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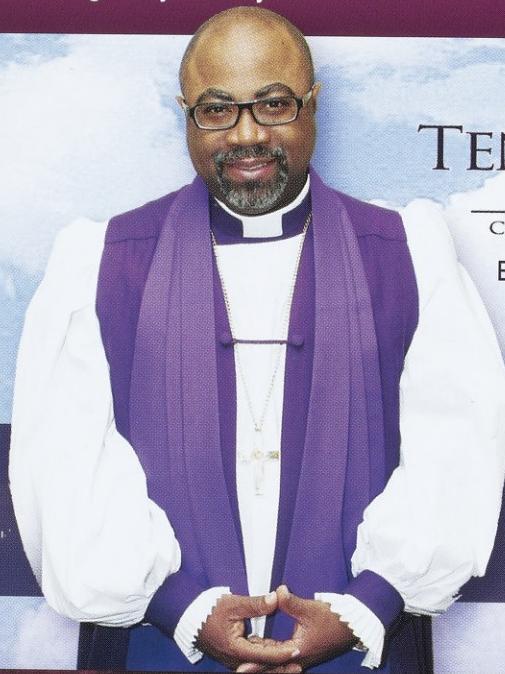
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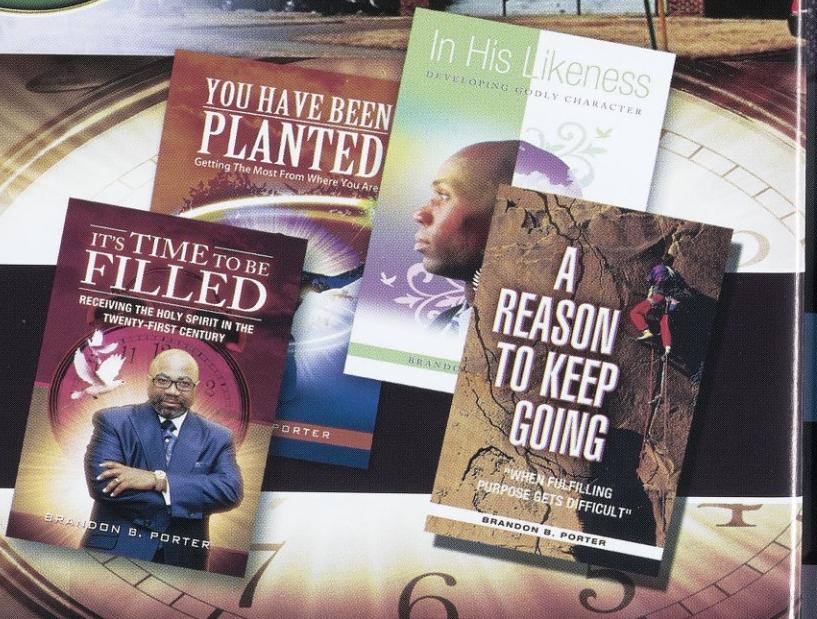
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MOTHER ARTASKA KING, CHAIRPERSON

I CAN TRULY SAY THAT EVERY ASSIGNMENT GIVEN TO HER AS HER PASTOR WAS AND IS CARRIED OUT WITH CONSISTENT ATTENTION TO EXCELLENCE.

DR. ROBERT A. VENEY, PASTOR-NEW HOPE COGIC

SUPERVISOR BANKS IS A PREPARED LOYAL WOMAN OF GOD. IN OBSERVING SUPERVISOR BANKS, I CAN ATTEST TO THE FACT THAT SHE HONEST, TRUSTWORTHY AND A WOMAN WITH GODLY PRINCIPLES.

MOTHER WILLIE MAE RIVERS- GENERAL SUPERVISOR

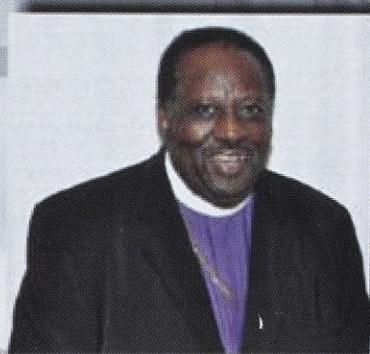


Diana
CHANDLER-BANKS

FOR VICE-CHAIR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

“A RECORD OF EXCELLENCE”

Miracle On Good FRIDAY



Louis, Mo. April



The Ministry of Area Bishop Lawrence M. Wooten, Pastor of Williams Temple COGIC and Prelate of Eastern Missouri/Western Illinois Jurisdiction-COGIC spans more than 55 years, since God miraculously saved him. His focus is truly souls, having established several outreach ministries such as, the Neighborhood Outreach Center, which provides food, clothing, GED program, jobs, etc., and the LMW Family Life Center which houses a full gymnasium, game and exercise rooms, designed to support family activities and youth mentoring programs. International Evangelist Shirley Wooten is a dedicated Saintly woman of God. She not only teaches the importance of prayer and fasting, as a lifestyle, but is a constant example; she has gone on fasts as long as 40 days. She is well known as a Prayer Warrior, God Chaser and one who delights in putting satan on the run.

Both Bishop and Lady Wooten minister not only in the local and national field but the international. They have shared the Word in several foreign countries and currently support many orphans in Uganda, East Africa. Additionally, they added to their family of four children by adopting their two youngest daughters from Uganda, Grace and Sarah, who are now American citizens.

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Lady Shirley Wooten**

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MEMPHIS INSIDER

Meet the new CFO

written by C. Cooper

TWT: Please tell our readers what your responsibilities as Chief Financial Officer for the Church Of God In Christ entails.

Potts: As Chief Financial Officer of the Church Of God In Christ, my main responsibilities are managing the accounting function for the Church Of God In Christ, which includes preparing and providing financial results and reporting on a monthly basis to our various divisions, and to the presiding bishop, and in addition, provide reports on a regular basis to the General Board at our major meetings and to the General Assembly when called upon. In addition to that, I've been brought in to help assess and develop the financial and internal controls, around our financial reporting; thus, helping prepare the Church Of God In Christ for its first-ever financial statement audit. I solicit your prayers.

TWT: Whom do you report to?

Potts: Presiding bishop and ultimately the general board.

TWT: Talk to us about the future financial outlook of the church.

Potts: I believe that the financial outlook of the Church of God in Christ is a movement in a direction that will increase the amount of transparency we have; increase soundness as far as our financial reporting is concerned. I believe as the Church of God in Christ embarks on obtaining a financial statement audit, it will lend credence to the soundness of our reporting. I believe that all of those things add to the sense that we are doing things the way they should be done; decently and in order. Ultimately, I believe that will have an outcome of our financial outlook.

TWT: What does a financial statement audit really mean?

Potts: What it means is having an independent accounting and auditing firm come in and examine our records and sign off, "if you will, give us their blessing," that we are exercising sound financial practices, according to what's called GAAP, which is Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. If we are able to obtain what's called an unqualified opinion, which is a clean opinion, which then gives us the thumbs up, that we are operating as expected according to GAAP. In a nutshell, what that does is help us as far as the financial community is concerned, to recognize that we are operating in integrity. It will open doors of opportunities that, up until this point in 103 year history, have not been opened; it will give us better relationships with vendors; it will create opportunities to get

better interest rates, to the extent of receiving loans; it will make getting various types of insurances that the Church should have, easier to obtain as result of having audited financial statements.

TWT: Let's just talk about the travel budget. It's nearly \$100,000. Why is it so high?

Potts: We've got several different divisions who are a part of the life and blood of the Church of God in Christ. Therefore, each of those entities has different reporting responsibilities which require travel to take place since the headquarters is there in Memphis; but literally, the management team of Church of God in Christ is represented throughout the country.

TWT: So what would you say to someone who says the travel budget is too much? How does the church justify a budget of that magnitude?

Potts: Board meetings that take place throughout the country, whether it's at the AIM Convention, Women's Convention, Board of Missions Convention, April Call meetings, General Board meetings, or General Assembly meetings, elected and appointed officers are responsible for meeting to discuss various assets of financial affairs of the church. That takes getting together individuals as I mentioned from all throughout the country. Obviously, there are some costs that have to be born as a result of that.

TWT: Is the travel budget an area the organization is looking to possibly decrease?

Potts: Of course. We are in the technological age where we can take advantage of teleconferences, videoconferences; those types of things are in the works. We anticipate being able to use them more often, but that's not always going to be the case. There will still be a need for a considerable amount of travel expenses.

TWT: Can you give us an idea of who actually compiles the budget for the church?

Potts: That's a pretty elongated process. The board of trustees is involved as well as treasurer and assistant treasurer is involved. My office, financial affairs, is involved, chief operating officers are involved, and the budget analyst is involved, and assigned bishop as well. It goes before the general board and ultimately to the general assembly to be approved.

TWT: As you are aware, a large part of the church's operating budget comes through the credential holders report. Can you suggest other methods that can be introduced to procure additional monies to perpetuate the ministries of the Church Of God In Christ?

Potts: First of all, I would say credential holders reporting is probably a little more than half of our annual budget and not quite close to all. Second of all, we are actually in conversations right now, concerning other avenues that we can seek for generating revenue for the Church Of God In Christ. There are some proposals around repositioning the Chisca property that we have and possibly looking for partnerships to develop that property. I say that knowing that we discussed in General Assembly that the hotel itself needs to be dealt with and it will be dealt with. Once that's done, then we will be faced with what we will do with the land that we still have, and there's definitely been conversation around that. In addition, analyzing the various properties the Church owns and how we can maximize the potential of the various properties that we own. I believe there are some things that are going to naturally occur as a result of us meeting the challenge in the area of our finances. I believe that once we've proven that we can stand the muster of a financial statement audit, and as

we've discussed today that we are operating with integrity, I believe the Scripture makes it clear, the Lord will begin to open up opportunities.

TWT: In light of all that you've been called upon to do, what are the challenges that you are facing?

Potts: I would say the challenges are two fold. One, being able to do the work on a regular basis, in the midst of recognizing that I'm the new kid on the block, and so there's a certain amount of time that I need to dedicate to building bridges and developing relationships, with the various divisions of the organizations. They do not know me. Another challenge is, the fact that our presiding bishop is in California. He needs to have access to me on a regular basis, in order that he can get real time information and feedback on the financial status of the organization. While I live in Los Angeles, I'm there for the presiding bishop, but I also need to have a strong presence here in Memphis in order to maintain day-to-day operations. That would probably be the second challenge, maintaining that balance as well.

TWT: What is the Presiding Bishop's plan regarding the travel you must do to accomplish these goals?

Potts: We are in the process of recruiting a controller, someone who lives in Memphis who will be here full time, to be my eyes, hands, and feet here on the ground so that when I'm not available to be here it will be his/her responsibility to assist with the day-to-day operations of the Accounting Department.

TWT: I know you are a CPA (Certified Public Accountant) and your license is current. Would you share some of your other professional background with our readers that caused the presiding bishop to select you to serve as the CFO?



Potts: Bishop Blake has known me for more than twenty years, and he knew of my work in the area of external as well as internal auditing. I've done an extensive amount of work in the area of Sarbanes Oxley. Sarbanes Oxley is a process developed by the government on the heels of the Enron fallout. It deals with internal audits over the controls around financial reporting. I have worked both as the independent auditor, as well as the consultant brought in by publicly traded corporations to help them develop those internal controls that would allow them to comply with the government regulations.

TWT: Share with our readers, who are pastors, just a few things they can do to enhance the financial solvency of their church?

Potts: First of all, if finances are not your area of gifting, find someone to help you. Serving as a pastor is a tremendous responsibility, so get help if you need it. Secondly, file your quarterly and annual payroll taxes and provide W-2's annually to your employees on a timely basis. You do not want to get in a situation where you are paying penalties and interest, because quarterlies and annual filings are not being done in a timely manner. In addition, they need to stay on top of making sure they are getting W-9 forms from their vendors. Outside of corporate vendors, everyone that they do business with on an annual basis should get W-9's so they can have current, accurate information.

Transforming the Image of Pentecost
Eugene F. Rivers 3d
is Senior Policy Advisor to the Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ

For much of the twentieth century Pentecostalism has been seen by the world as unrefined folk religion disconnected from the modern world. In the last quarter of that century this conception of Pentecostalism as an isolated and irrelevant faith underwent a significant transformation as a direct result of the singular work and witness of Bishop Charles E Blake. The biblical principle which was the basis for his successful ministry is found in 1 Corinthians 9:22-23 where the apostle Paul wrote "I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel that I may share in its blessings." As this passage suggests successful biblical witness in today's world, must, if it is faithful to the biblical mandate, not be hindered by backward-looking allegiances to obsolete religious tradition, it must be relevant to the unsaved in the current age.

What has been revolutionary about Blake's witness has been his commitment to arguing for the indivisibility of biblical holiness and God's concern for justice for the poor. Furthermore Blake

has brought thoughtful reflection and striking intelligence to this work which is unprecedented in the history of modern Pentecostalism. Bishop Blake's witness is part of a larger movement of the Spirit as God works to translate the power of the Spirit into every domain of modern day life.

The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. was another man with the required integrity, courage, and a wisdom to serve as new leadership raised up by God for a given generation. Throughout the sixties he waged a political struggle against the structural forces that were arrayed against Black people, only dimly aware of the invisible principalities and powers which lay behind them. At King's death, the theological liberalism which no longer exhibited the philosophical or political strength to inspire a younger generation was declining.

In King's bidding farewell from the pulpit of the mother church of Pentecost the Holy Spirit foreshadowed the transferal of the vision to the sons and daughters referred to in Joel 2:29: "I will pour out my spirit on all people and your sons and daughters will prophesy, and your old men will dream dreams and your young men will see visions." As Robert M. Franklin, President of Morehouse College, observed: "Within the Black Church the nineteenth century was the age of the AME, the twentieth century was the age of the Baptists, and the twenty-first century will be the age of the Pentecostals."

It would take forty years for the Holy Spirit to prepare the people to whom the mantle had been passed

and to raise up the right man for this task. It was a calling which would require the revolutionary power of Pentecost with signs and wonders following to bring deliverance to the multitudes of black people. During this period black political life became increasingly secularized with the emergence of a class of black elected officials. The class orientation of black leadership, with its emphasis on integration, shifted upwards. The logical result was the effective re-segregation of the urban black poor as the black middle and upper middle class evacuated the declining cities.

During this intervening period a young minister by the name of Charles Edward Blake was quietly building his community-serving West Angles Church of God in Christ. Membership exploded in the seventies, accompanied by equally impressive ministerial growth and an extensive building project. With a congregation that required four services each Sunday, the 5,000-seat West Angeles Cathedral was opened on April 28, 2001, by Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson. The church has been recognized as one of the fastest growing in the nation, with more than eighty ministry and outreach programs including a Bible college, a counseling department, a school and television and radio broadcasts. The most prominent outreach service, the West Angeles CDC, has developed nearly \$50 million of real estate, and an operating budget nearly \$3 million in 2006.

In the late nineties Blake, as a pastor and intellectual of irreproachable moral character and singular leadership abilities, was approached by Pentecostal activists and intellectuals to respond to reports of an AIDS epidemic exploding in Africa. The resulting research and organizing around the issue of the AIDS orphan crisis led to unprecedented media and governmental response which gave the issue international

prominence. The supernatural power to identify and engage the principalities and powers at work in this holocaust (Ephesians 6:12) that was at Blake's disposal was the key transformation from the Civil Rights phase of the struggle under King.

In 2001 Bishop Blake founded Save Africa's Children to provide concrete humanitarian support for 340 AIDS orphan care projects in over 23 countries on the continent of Africa. Blake's prophetic call bears repeating: "When a future generation of black scholars conducts their historical research... what verdict will our descendants render upon their ancestors [if we stand] by silently as a generation of African children was reduced to a biological underclass by this sexual holocaust?"

In 2008 Bishop Blake convened a Pan-African leadership summit to present an urban domestic policy agenda to the Church of God in Christ and the larger black church. This five point urban initiative consisted of mentoring, crime prevention, employment assistance, family and fatherhood skills and financial literacy programs. Once again, it is the combination of spiritual warfare and the commitment to social justice that brings new power to the Black Church's struggle on behalf of the black poor.

In summary Charles Edward Blake has emerged as the new prophetic voice. To quote Reverend Al Sharpton, "Bishop Blake... has emerged as the Prelate of Black America." Bishop Blake's achievement constitutes a model for a Pentecostal political theology of Christian Pan-Africanism. By expanding our understanding of holiness to include the Biblical concept of justice, and underlining the fundamental role of the power of Pentecost in achieving both, Bishop Blake is taking the church in a new direction. In bringing to bear the power of Pentecost on the issues of social injustice, the importance of personal holiness becomes even more critical. It is into the potent manifestation of this tri-partite ministry of holiness, justice and supernatural gifts that Bishop Blake is called to lead us.

Faces of Cogic **Women At Work**

more than a missionary

by Rachel Irving-Mann



Valerie Daniels Carter

Mother L. Patterson

Clerk Dorothy Brown

Sarah, the mother of nations. Deborah, the prophetess. Esther, the fearless queen. Ruth, the faithful daughter. Mary, the mother of Jesus. All were legendary women of the Bible and of history.

But phenomenal women of God are still making history today, particularly in the Church of God in Christ. They are real-life examples of achieving greatness inside and outside the church, from the pulpit to corporate America. They have made history as business owners, politicians, missionaries, evangelists, wives, mothers, mentors, and friends.

The question is: How did they do it (and manage to stay sane and saved)? These women gave us the insider's guide for balancing business, faith and family successfully... with Godly grace.

I recall a verse of poet Maya Angelou's famous Phenomenal Woman. As cliché as it may sound, the emotion behind this poem fit this assignment. Call it my muse, if you will. It represents each woman's inner confidence, wrapped in humility, and accented with natural class. Like a jade hat pin, expertly gracing the brim of my grandmother's finest church hat.

While speaking with these three women, I noticed one thing they had in common—the greatness achieved was never planned. Carter wanted a business, Patterson wanted to be model, Brown wanted to be an accountant. The visions were commendable, the tasks obtainable, the plans...predictable. But as always, God re-wrote the script in each woman's life—forging strength through fire and opening unexpected doors. Today, they are examples of greatness in God.

*"Now you understand
Just why my head's not bowed.
I don't shout or jump about
Or have to talk real loud.
When you see me passing
It ought to make you proud..."*

*'Cause I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me." – Maya Angelou,
Phenomenal Woman*



Valerie Daniels Carter

Women have come a long way. From corporate America to the pulpit, women have advanced into some of the world's most influential business owners, women in ministry, mothers, and wives, and somehow manage to keep it all in balance with Godly grace.

Enter Dr. Valerie Daniels-Carter. Call her super-woman, wonder-woman, or even every-woman, but she is a godly-woman first and foremost. And she won't let you forget it.

Dr. Valerie Daniels-Carter

There are three things that Daniels-Carter knows for sure: God is good, people need to eat, and the Green Bay Packers is her favorite NFL team. The life-long "Cheese Head" was recently elected one of three newest members of the Green Bay Packers Board of Directors, making her the first and only African American woman to stand on an NFL Board of Directors in league history. That is no small feat. It is a testament to God's favor and her undeniable success in corporate America.

Daniels-Carter is the President and CEO of V&J Holding Companies. She is the largest female owner of franchises in the United States; author of Your

Business is His Business, evangelist, mother, and mentor to many. She holds more than 140 franchises, including Burger King, Pizza Hut, Auntie Anne's Pretzels, Häagen-Dazs, and Coffee Beanery. Ironically, she never imagined that her passion for business and entrepreneurship would drive her towards building an empire. However, it did, with God's help.

Raised In the Spirit

Daniels-Carter grew up in the Church of God in Christ (C.O.G.I.C.) thanks to her parents John and Kathryn Daniels; particularly Kathryn, who joined C.O.G.I.C. in the early 1950's. The family also relocated from Birmingham, Alabama to Milwaukee, Wisconsin at that time. Her mother later became a missionary, Sunday school field representative, president of her church's Music Department, and held other positions at the church. Her mother's passion was a major influence on Daniels-Carter. "I was saved as a teenager. Because of the love that was in my home and the teaching in terms of what the love of God could do for you; it wasn't hard for me to give my life to the Lord. I wanted to help promote the kingdom," said Daniels-Carter.

College Life

In 1978, Daniels-Carter received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri and a Master of Science in Business Management from Cardinal Stritch University in 1982. After which, she started the process of obtaining her first franchise and opened her first Burger King in 1984.

Staying Balanced

"In life you learn to balance yourself based upon your activities. Some things I prioritize at a higher level one week and next week the priority might not be as high. Start every day with prayer and ask God to give you a sense of direction, focus, and the ability to achieve the things that you need to achieve in order to complete that day." She explains that

staying balanced is a matter of knowing yourself. "You kind of get a sense of your ability to manage stress, high demands versus low demands, navigate through different areas of your life and what your needs are. And then you start to really adjust your life to your needs. The first priority is God, your family and yourself. You will find that comfortable balance."

Championing Challenges with God

In her book, Your Business is His Business; Daniels-Carter describes her grueling and almost humiliating process of meeting a franchise executive (known as "Mr. Come Ride with Me" in her book) for an interview when applying for her first franchise. "Mr. Come Ride with Me" took her on a wild journey, from a corporate office in Minneapolis, Minnesota to a hunting trip in Minnesota, all with the intended purpose to frustrate her and force her to give up the pursuit for the franchise.

"You must understand, I had no idea where I was going or who this man was; I only knew one thing—I had come to Minnesota for an interview, and I was not leaving until I accomplished my objective," she said in her book. After her first day of trying to get the interview, she returned to her hotel, prayed, and questioned what God was doing, but she didn't get angry.

The next day, she returned back to the executive during his hunting trip, grabbed a rifle and an orange hunting jacket, followed "Mr. Come Ride with Me" and his hunting buddies to go hunting (with no hunting skills to speak of) and forced "Mr. Come Ride with Me" to recognize that she was serious and determined to get her franchise license. She got her interview and the franchise. She wrote, "Did I take a risk? You better know I did! Yet greater than the risk was the assurance that He who had begun a good work in me was able to complete it while He protected and kept me." The rest is history.

In her view, the culture of corporate America hasn't changed much concerning women and minorities in business over the years. That was her inspiration for putting pen to paper. "I wanted other individuals to know that diligence does pay off, and if you're passionate and really believe in your destiny, it will be achieved. I don't think there has been a huge shift in the culture of America. Therefore, the shift has got to be inside of us. We have to take control of our destiny, and don't settle for the first answer. Never allow anyone to destroy your dream."

The Strength of Family

The most challenging days of her life didn't come when she started the business (and those were hard days). The most difficult days came in 1999, when her husband, Jeffery Carter, Sr., passed away. Suddenly a single mother with a young child, Daniels-Carter had to make another major shift to balance business, family, and faith. Then, her mother passed the following year. "It was probably one of the darkest moments of my life, but through the goodness of God and his faithfulness, I now know God in a much broader and deeper way than I could have ever imagined. It was because He sustained me. It challenged my trust, my faith, and my ability to trust God in spite of. Fortunately I was able to trust. My family was so supportive. Even to this day, they continue to be a strong support."

A Mother's Advice

Her greatest investment was her son Jeffery Carter, II (born in 1994). Raising a son as a single mother took great support from family. There was business and church, but family is always first priority. When asked for advice about raising a child as a single parent, she said, "Listen to your child; be very watchful of individuals that they associate with. Allow them to grow into their own personality, but train them in the fear and admonition of God, and love them."



Today, Daniels-Carter is a member of Holy Redeemer C.O.G.I.C., founded and pastored by her brother, Bishop Cedric Daniels. They recently opened a 160,000 square foot youth center, named after their mother (The Mother Kathryn Daniels Conference Center), that houses a Boys and Girls Club, two schools, a social service agency, and meeting space. While she is very active in the national church, she is equally involved in her local church. She serves as minister of music, member of the Women's Department, and member of the Holy Redeemer C.O.G.I.C.

Board of Directors

When it's all said and done, her greatest desire is to seed back into the lives of others and help them achieve their dreams and goals. "This really is my greatest desire," she said.





Mother L. Patterson

The Lord's timing is always perfect. Therefore, it is no coincidence that the Whole Truth was able to interview Mother Patterson on September 22, the birthday of her late husband, former Presiding Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson..

Mother Patterson is President/CEO of Bountiful Blessings Inc., a producer evangelist, and also a fighter. After Bishop G.E. Patterson passed in 2007, she suddenly found herself running a business and a ministry. Voted by the board of directors as president, succeeding her husband, she works to keep the ministry alive. However, she wasn't always C.O.G.I.C., nor was a life of ministry ever in her "to-do" list growing up.

Mother Patterson

Patterson was born Louise Dowdy to the Godly parents of Arthur and Alma Dowdy who raised her in the fear and admonition of God. She lived in the Foot Homes project of Memphis, Tennessee. The hand of God was on her life as she walked across the field to the store for her Father. That field is now the campus of The Temple of Deliverance, Cathedral of Bountiful Blessings located at 369 G. E. Patterson Avenue.

"I was raised in the Mount Olive Cathedral Memphis, CME church. All my life until I was grown enough to decide what church I wanted to attend," she said. "After hearing on the radio, the voice of 'God's Young Apostle,' G.E. Patterson, somehow his words really met my need," she said. He was co-pastor with his father at Holy Temple Church of God in Christ. She decided to visit Holy

Temple Church, got saved and eventually joined the church. That was in 1966 and she has been working in C.O.G.I.C. ever since.

Marriage

When Bishop Patterson married Mother Patterson on May 27, 1967, the plans for their lives were clear at the beginning. He founded Temple of Deliverance, the Cathedral of the Bountiful Blessings in 1975. He was elected Presiding Bishop of C.O.G.I.C. in 2000. As a leader, Bishop Patterson was liberal and supportive of women in ministry. As a husband, he was just as supportive, but more conservative.

"My husband was of the opinion that I would just be a housewife and there would be only one preacher in the house," she said. "Women worked in a lot of ministerial capacities in our church. But as his wife, he didn't want me in that role because in many ways the ministers' wives get the brunt of a lot of things that aren't pleasant; so that was his way of sheltering me. He has always been very liberal to women in ministry; it's just that it was not his desire for his wife."

But in the late 1970's, the Lord changed the plans and called Mother Patterson to ministry as an evangelist. "At that time, the men did most of the ministry. We have become quite progressive. Now there are many female ministers and they are limited to some extent; but even more so back in the day. I was president of the women's department, the youth department and that's basically where I functioned."

There could be a fine line between women's liberation and chaos. In the church, it takes wisdom to know that the line even exists and how to walk it.

"We do have a place in ministry, as did the women in the days of old. It can be very fruitful if we stay focused. Realize that the platform is in the scriptures. God intended for the men to be the head. There will never be a female takeover in the church," she said.

Family

Bishop and Mother Patterson were married on May 27, 1967. "We don't have any biological children, but we have thousands of spiritual children. Many we've sent to college and have done great things in their lives," she said. I think the first person we put through college was in the first year we were married, in 1967."

But one of her biggest concerns currently is the upbringing of children in Christian homes. She advises that parents should always present themselves as an example of godliness for their children. They are the first line of defense against bringing ungodly habits into the home. "Children see so much hypocrisy. They want to see the truth, and I think truth and integrity must be shown in the household. You have to project what you are trying to instill in them at home." The same goes for life in the church.

The Transition of Godly Business

"I remember when he wasn't doing so well, physically, and I asked him the question 'what am I'm going to do when you leave me?' His words were, 'Louise, you can handle it.' So that's what I'm attempting to do by the grace of God and the kindness of the saints everywhere.

After my husband died I had to regroup, I had to present myself in his stead to try to keep the ministry alive," she said.

Now at the helm of The Bountiful Blessings Inc., as President/CEO, Patterson runs WBBP radio station and Podium Record label, which are divisions of Bountiful Blessings.

As General Manager of WBBP, she has partnered with the University of Memphis Journalism Department, to offer hands-on experience and training in news and broadcasting. Mother Patterson is making future plans to create a scholarship for those students in need and going into the field of broadcasting. She also offers her radio clients that have 15 minute broadcast on WBBP, social media resources.

She has developed and dedicated Bountiful Blessings to supporting family-focused, health-conscious initiatives that contribute to strong, vibrant communities. The action step to this goal was birth through the Bishop G. E. Patterson 5k Walk/Run 4Life. In its second year, she raised close to \$10,000 to support infant mortality and at-risk youth in the mid-south community.

She is the founder of The Total Woman Women's Conference. Mother Patterson uses this conference as an example for Christian women to unify across denominations. Attended by 500-1000 women each year, The Total Woman Women's Conference enables women

to be revived, stimulated, and motivated to give back to their community and develop leadership skills. It allows women to work toward future goals in an environment that blends spiritual and natural experiences. "There's so many talented women, and if we yolk together with what we do, then the kingdom can go further," she said. "When it's all said and done, it's all about working while it is day and enjoying life."

Mother Patterson came from an era when a High School diploma was sufficient to make a home and a career; but she learned more under G.E.

Patterson than what a classroom could offer—spiritual insight and resilience. "It has been maybe not as smooth as I would have had hoped, but I'm thankful that I undertook the task knowing that there were many things that I didn't know, but I've allowed people around me that would steer and give me clear and godly directions. The business world is altogether different from the church world, so I basically had to take one step at a time."

"The Word of God has no shelf life. Every minister, when they mount the podium on Sunday morning, talks of men that are no longer with us. I was at one point criticized, saying I was carrying out the message of a dead man. But, I remember a minister telling me that Bishop Patterson was a visionary that saw tomorrow, yesterday. I thought that was so profound.

A visionary person sees things before they happen.

I'm trying to reach the people that he didn't reach in his life, and let them know that God loves them."

Life after Death

The loss of her husband forced Mother Patterson to take her future



into her own hands. Granted, Bishop G.E. Patterson made provisions, but she still needed to stand on her own two feet and take on the defense and offense of her life. She soon realized that she wasn't the only preacher's wife in this situation.

"It's a difficult walk when you no longer have your mate with you. We have to become more concerned about what happens to us when our mates are gone. Young women need to speak with their husbands and find out 'what's going to happen to me when you're gone?'"

On the Horizon

Mother Patterson holds the title of recording artist and now the title of executive producer of her first CD project. The title of the project is See His Glory which is due to be released on November 1, 2011, and available for purchase during C.O.G.I.C. Holy Convocation. The CD/DVD is a compilation of songs, prayers, and exhortations by Bishop G. E. Patterson during live services as he gives glory to God.

"The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory".

Ps 97:6 NIV



Clerk Dorothy Brown

Few would have imagined a young woman, raised picking cotton on her family's farm in Louisiana, would become one of the most prominent city officials in Chicago. Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, is the first African American in the history of the county to become the Clerk of the second largest court system in the country. She made her way through challenges and pessimists to become a public official, attorney, Certified Public Accountant (CPA), licensed missionary, youth leader in her local, state, and national church, and all-around super woman. But she will be the first to tell you, that it was all by the grace of God.

Dorothy Brown – Civil Servant

Dorothy Brown was first elected as the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, in 2000, has been reelected to two additional terms, and is currently campaigning for re-election. Three consecutive victories by overwhelming margins illustrate voter confidence in her abilities. As the official keeper of records for all judicial matters brought into one of the largest unified court systems in the world, Clerk Brown is responsible for managing an annual operating budget of more than \$100 million and a workforce of over 2,100 employees.

Groomed in the Cotton Fields

One of eight children, Dorothy Brown was born to religious parents, David Rabb Sr. and Dinkie Rabb, in the small town of Minden, Louisiana. The family attended Spring Lake C.O.G.I.C., currently led by Elder Woodrow Davis.

Her parents were poor and uneducated, but they instilled in their children the values of sacrifice, self-discipline, faith, and the importance of obtaining a good education. Her father worked in the laundry room of the Louisiana Army Ammunitions Plant near Minden. He also owned a cotton farm in Athens, Louisiana with his siblings, where Dorothy and her siblings helped pick and

chop cotton. Brown's mother worked in the local cafés in the mornings and was a domestic worker (often for her bosses from her day jobs) in the evening.

"I feel that they literally worked themselves to death. They sent all eight of us to college," she said. "Working in that hot cotton field gave me the tenacity and the strength to say, 'you know Dorothy, you ought to do something better than this.'"

A Career of Miracles

With that drive, she attended Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1971. Her initial plan was to study Sociology, but her brother convinced her that Accounting was a noble profession. But her oldest sister told her she had to be the best in her class to succeed in that profession because she was starting with two strikes, being black and a woman in a profession dominated by white males. She graduated in 1975, ranking number one in her accounting class and number four in the entire university, but still had problems getting job offers from major CPA firms in the 70's, as her big sister predicted. While struggling to find a job in her field after college, she accepted a job with the electric utility company and moved to Chicago, where she joined King of Glory C.O.G.I.C.

She became a CPA by age 21. "When I took the CPA exam, my pastor prayed that the Lord would give me the wisdom and knowledge to pass that exam and when I took that exam, the Lord blessed me. It was like I had a photographic memory, I could just look in the sky and close my eyes and see an answer on the specific page of the book. The Lord blessed me to pass the exam."

However, the bigger miracle was that she soon landed a job in her field— working for Arthur Andersen, one of the largest CPA firms in the world at the time. She originally applied in college, "I was in the recruiting office...something said to me that they would not hire me [a denial of hire would have kept her from ever being considered at the firm in the



future]. When the recruiter from Arthur Andersen came out looking for me to start the interview, something said to me, don't say anything, just walk out. They called my name and I acted as if I didn't hear them and walked out."

When she applied the second time, after receiving the CPA, the firm had no record of her ever having an interview. She got the job. "You know that was nothing but the Lord ordering my steps," she said. While at Arthur Andersen she obtained a MBA in Finance from DePaul University in Chicago.

Saved Management

"In 1990, I said, 'I want to be a public servant, but I don't want to do it unless I am attorney.' I thought I might become a legislator, and I felt, if you make the law, you ought to know the law. I did not want to depend on staff to tell me how the law works and how to vote on

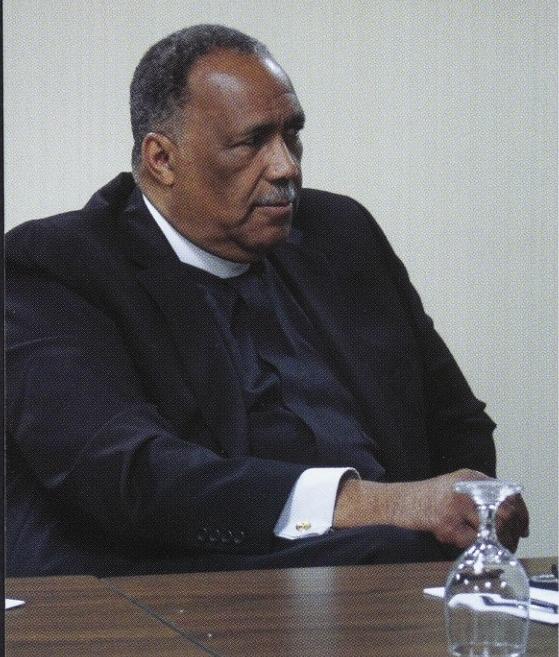
an issue. I wanted to know for myself. It wasn't until 1992 that I was able to attend law school," she said.

"If you're going to run for office, prepare yourself; make sure that you are qualified for the office you seek. I wanted to make sure that I was very competitive, so that people would judge me by the content of my character and not the color of my skin. And I thought that if I got the right credentials, I could run and win an office in a city and in a county that I came to as a brand new person where no one knew me."

By 2000, she was elected Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois. Through this entire journey, while in school, managing a career, and raising her daughter as a single mother, she remained active in her local and national church; particularly in the Youth Department. She has served

as president of her church's Youth Department, Chair of the Midwest Region Scholastic Motivation Ministries, and held additional positions. Currently, she serves as secretary for C.O.G.I.C. Charities.

Dorothy Brown married Dr. Benton Cook III, a Clinical Psychologist in 2009, and has one daughter Detris Damaris Brown, a BS graduate of Howard University and an MBA graduate of American International University in London, England.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA

New Chairman takes charge...

Change is a relevant factor of life. It is said that nothing is permanent but change. The Church Of God In Christ is saddened by the loss of our former chairman, the late Bishop J.O. Patterson. However, we are excited to welcome and receive our new General Assembly (GA) Chairman, Elder James W. Hunt, Sr.

The Whole Truth had a unique opportunity to have a candid conversation with our chairman about his intentions to reinvigorate and reengage the general assembly into an active body of our organization. We've been privileged and granted permission by him, to list a few of what we believe to be interesting agenda items for highlight; just a few of the many things that will occur at general assembly on November 7 and 8, 2011.

Elder Hunt assures that all members attending the general assembly will have a better understanding of all the tools that govern C.O.G.I.C. Those things are:

1. The Constitution /By-Laws
2. Bishop Ross's Approved Resolutions
3. Blue Ribbon Committee Resolutions
4. Policies and Procedures that impact the National Church

Here are some other notable mentions for the upcoming general assembly meeting:

1. The Blue Ribbon Committee has been replaced with the Constitution Committee.
2. The Constitution Committee will be in charge of separating Policies and Procedures from the Constitution.
3. Dr. Diana Chandler Banks has been appointed as the new chairperson for the Resolution Committee.
 - This Committee will be presenting a number of very important resolutions.
 - They will work to clarify the roles and responsibilities for all the general assembly's standing committees that exist today.
4. There is a current partnership with the Publishing House to develop a mobile web application that will provide constituents secured access to the Constitution, By-Laws, Resolutions, Meeting Agendas, and Minutes for their convenience.

Elder Hunt's platform for this general assembly is living up to the will of the GA by abiding by the Constitution and the By-Laws. In his opinion, by the general board advising him on issues in the general church, he can focus on many of the issues at hand; such as, putting processes in place so that information can be released in advance, legalities dealing with Convocation, budget, constitutional changes, candidate declarations, consecration before ratification, and many other issues.

The chairman says:

1. Legislation will be offered that will require the general board and presiding bishop to notify the general assembly one year in advance before changing convocation dates.
2. The general assembly will elect a vice chair.
3. Three sitting judges will be put forward to be affirmed.
4. The budget items will be acted upon.
5. There will be a resolution to affirm the last constitutional convention.
6. There will be a vote on the Ascension Clause.
7. All national candidates will have to declare their intentions to run for 2012 election.

Elder Hunt states that, in order for the general assembly to be effective, both the general board and the presiding bishop should be open and willing to keeping the chairman abreast of information. This will not be a general assembly that will act haphazardly when not informed.

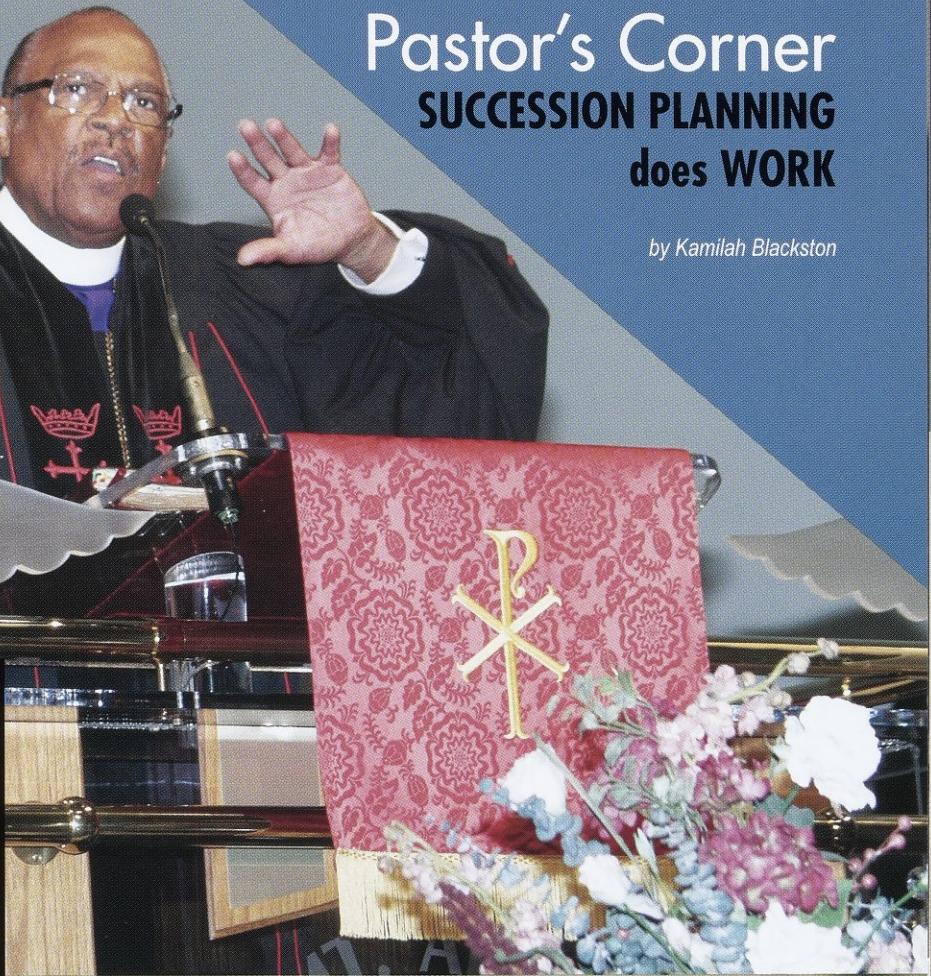
The general assembly begins on November 7, 2011 at 5 p.m.

Pastor's Corner

SUCCESSION PLANNING does WORK

by Kamilah Blackston

Succession is the act or process of following in order or sequence; identifying and developing individuals to succeed to senior positions in government, business, organizations, etc. In any case, succession is never an easy task. However, for Mt. Airy Church of God in Christ, succession planning has allowed a well-respected bishop to leave his beloved church of 50 years, in good hands. Bishop Ernest C. Morris, Sr. loved his church, one of the largest in Philadelphia of any denomination, enough to let it go. Dr. J. Louis Felton, who took on the title of Servant Leader, had the courage to trust enough to take control. Bishop Morris is the ideal case study for C.O.G.I.C. succession planning. He chose Servant Leader over his son. Wow, what courage...



Founded in May 1966, Mt. Airy Church of God In Christ was church home to little over a dozen kids in Sunday School. Having grown tremendously over the past four decades, Mt. Airy now holds a congregation of 5,000 members on a 73,000 sq. ft. campus, in the West Oak Lane section of Philadelphia. Bishop Morris has spent many years building and growing his church to "The Place Where the Spirit of God Dwells". At 78 years young, Bishop Morris says, "I've been C.O.G.I.C. for 56 years. I've come to the conclusion that it's time for me to step aside and give this ministry over to another successful young man and spend more time fulfilling the call of jurisdictional prelate." Succession won't work if you have nothing else to do.

When discussing when it's "time to quit", Bishop Morris doesn't think it has anything to do with age. Three shortcomings led him to plan for succession so that his church would remain successful. One, other pastors that Bishop Morris knew did not have a retirement plan. Two, most succession plans required that a pastor's son should succeed him in ministry. Three, if the pastor did not have a son, the pastor would remain in the pulpit so long that the church would, in a way, die around him. Once that happened and a pastor was finally succeeded, it would take a resurrection to get the church back up to par again. "So I looked at that early in my ministry and made plans for retirement long before I needed to step down. I asked myself, 'Do I really have

the energy to take this ministry to the next level. My 45 years has been on a moving cycle from one point to another point to another point. Should I object to doing that or should I take the energy that I have left and put it to the jurisdiction that I've been appointed to.'"

Bishop Morris shared that in his succession plan, it took years of prayer with not only God, but with his wife as well. He wanted his successor to enter into his position and lead his ministry with the drive, favor, and love that he had for his church. God, Bishop Morris, and his wife, cohesively, could only think of one person who would fill the position appropriately, and that was Dr. J. Louis Felton.





"Well, I have taken the mantra at Mt. Airy of Servant Leader because Jesus said, he that would be greatest amongst us, let him be the servant." In examining Servant Leader's approach to succession, one can't help but to notice and realize the overwhelming admiration and respect that Servant Leader has for his jurisdictional bishop. The transition has occurred with both of them respecting each other's gifts and talents with the founder not crossing over into the lane of pastor; and the pastor willfully submitting to his jurisdictional bishop and founder of the church that he is now firmly in control and in charge of. There has to be dynamic of biblical chemistry that allows Elisha to follow Elijah. In their own ways, they are both uniquely invested in the success of succession, the success of

the ministry, and the success of the jurisdiction. There has to be a willful commitment to the vision of each other, a support mechanism that can't be broken by the traditional innuendos, and listening to the voices of others. Bishop Morris says, "Had I listened to colleagues and friends who said it wouldn't work, there wouldn't be succession. I'm so glad I heard the voice of Jesus telling me, 'This is my will.'"

Servant Leader described how a strong foundation is the basis for a successful transition from one leader to another. It is agreed that a church should plan for succession when that particular church is on top. "The right time is when you have a love for ministry," said Bishop Morris. Bishop Morris said of Servant Leader, "He asked me, 'Did you

pray about this?' I said yes. He then said, 'When do you want me to come?' It was then that I knew this was the Lord's doing." He knew that Servant Leader was the right choice because he was so successful in ministry in Michigan. Servant Leader pastored two churches in Kalamazoo including the Galilee Baptist Church. He left Michigan a little over a year ago to come to Mt. Airy. The relationship that Servant Leader and Bishop Morris had made the acceptance of transition and succession all the better.

The golden insight is that you don't want to choose anybody that doesn't have anything to lose. Servant Leader gave up something not because he was gaining something, but he walked away from something because God gave him something. You



must choose a successor who has something to walk away from.

TWT: Good transition takes how long?

Bishop Morris: It takes several years. It does not happen overnight.

TWT: Who are the participants in good transition?

Servant Leader: It must be the leadership of the church, vested ministry heads, and the families of both parties.

TWT: Can different styles of leadership work?

Bishop Morris: As long as they have the same end goal in mind to bless the people of God. Certainly, the way that I would approach something, he wouldn't. **Servant Leader:** Because there are generational differences between the ways we think,

certainly there are differences in style and you can't be afraid to embrace it. Bishop Morris is a tall, attractive, stately gentleman who is more aggressive. I'm much shorter and my personality is much more laid back.

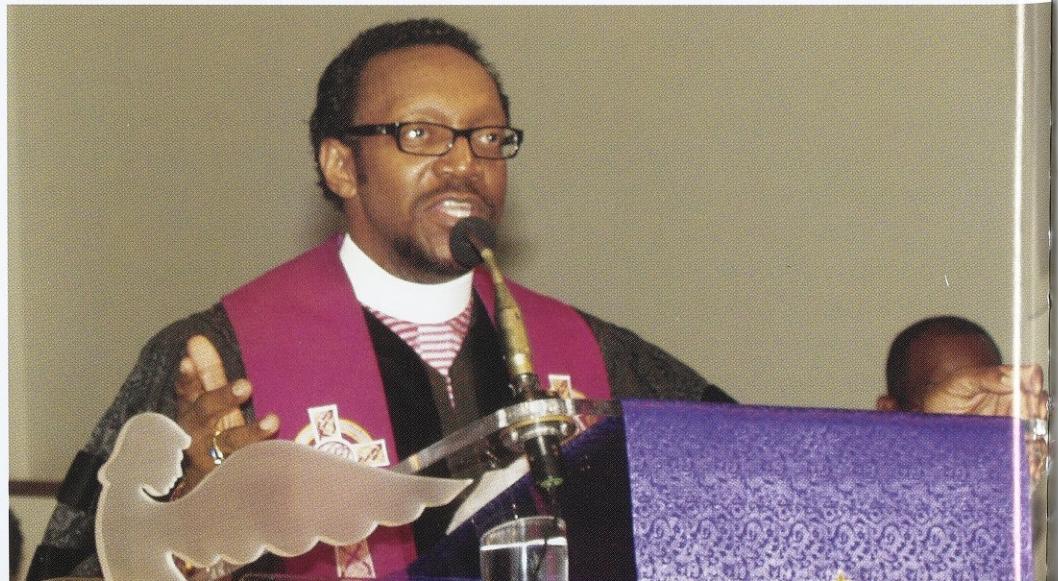
TWT: Who is your favorite preacher?

Bishop Morris: Dr. J. Louis Felton

Servant Leader: Bishop Ernest C. Morris.

It is only our prayer that the conversation that The Whole Truth began, the national church will pick up and use as a model of excellence and duplication.

AND THIS IS THE WHOLE TRUTH.



7 HELPFUL HINTS TO THINK ABOUT

Start financial planning now so that you don't have to depend on the church forever.

Succession means choosing someone you trust, not someone you like, whose skill set meets tomorrow's needs. (Tomorrow.)

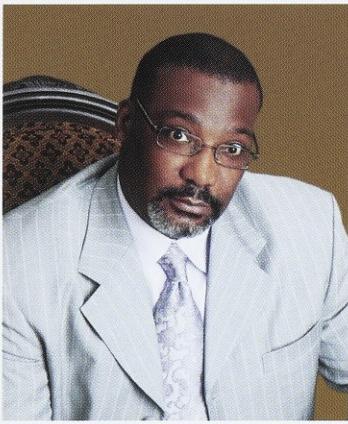
Be willing to decrease.

Succession keeps your legacy alive, not your control.

Make your family a part of the process, not part of the decision.

Create a legal document that protects you and your successor.

Much prayer, much planning.



CHURCH FINANCES MADE EASY

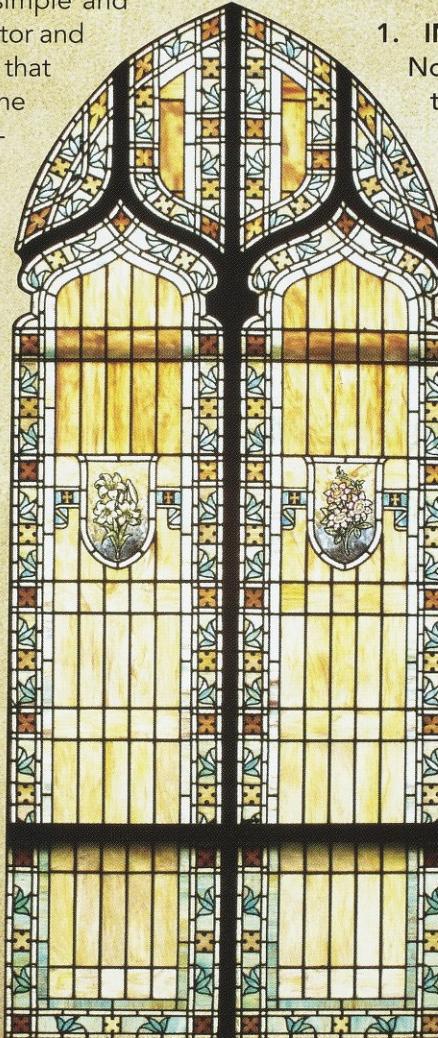
MONEY IN A MINUTE

By Elder Frank Anthone White

Many churches do not have the benefit of full-time paid help -- especially in the area of finance management. As such, the Pastor's job of helping manage finances can become extremely consuming. There are many simple and helpful principles which can guide the Pastor and his staff into setting-up a workable system that allows pastors to focus on implementing the vision of the Church without being burdened by the technical aspects of administering finances.

For pastors of congregations with paid bookkeepers and financial experts, the job of monitoring the finances can be delegated, but is nonetheless important. Actually, managing the budget mostly involves being the eye that keeps the Church and its financial goals on course. For example, if the Prayer & Bible Band's Tuesday night offering brings enough income to keep the musicians paid (and the saints are being enriched!), then the scheduling of this weekly function of ministry is obviously worth renewing once the following year's budget is fashioned.

To manage the Church budget doesn't necessarily mean to be a "security guard" over all expenditures; it means that all facets of the budget are assessed regularly and modifications are made as necessary. Reassessment and modifications are not only necessary from time to time, but they are essential to the healthy operation of the Church. This is what keeps the Church from drowning in complacency. (Amos 6:1).



When it comes to maintaining simplicity in managing the Church's finances, there are four important areas that should always be addressed:

1. INVESTING IN YOUR MINISTRY'S FUTURE

Now is the time to prepare for the manifestation of the vision God has given to you.

Whenever you walk in purpose you will always find two things: provision and power. You never have to look for provision or power as long as you walk in your purpose. Don't look for provision or power; Find your purpose and you will not have to look for things - things will be looking for you! Prepare in your down season so when the door opens you will be prepared to enter.

2. CREATING A SOLID FINANCIAL PLAN FOR YOUR CHURCH

Adopting a few simple principles can help take the uncertainty and stress out of managing Church finances.

For starters, this requires keeping a close eye on cash flow. This is what keeps the Church operational. Cash flow makes funds available for immediate use without having to borrow, and it makes them available for emergencies, improvements and pending bills. Whether we realize it or not, cash flow will tell us nearly everything we need to know about what's happening in our Church.

3. DETERMINING IF YOUR CHURCH IS FISCALLY FIT

How to know if your Church can survive the seasons ahead. When it comes to annual giving, one way to determine if

“Whether we realize it or not, cash flow will tell us nearly everything we need to know about what's really happening in our Church.”

your Church is financially fit is to compare the current year's receipts per attendee to the figures from 15-20 years ago. If you are able to track further back - that's even better - since over the past 40 years, the Consumer Price Index went up roughly 400 percent, and personal income, rose even more.

So, if your Church received an average of \$200 per attendee per year 40 years ago, and it now receives an average of \$900, you're ahead! You can conduct similar comparisons in giving from 10, 15 and 20 years ago. Document the trends and be blessed by the hard facts that your church's income is in pace with the economy.

4. THE STOCK MARKET & STEWARDSHIP

Can investing in the stock market be a healthy practice for your Church?

The bedrock of biblical understanding of wealth is that it all belongs to God - and it does!

However, He entrusts us to manage it wisely and responsibly. Our task is to seek Him in prayer for guidance as how to divide the pie.

- (1) How much should be given to missions and outreach?
- (2) How much should be earmarked for building expansion?
- (3) How much should be set aside for future needs?

Basically, as stewards, we are entrusted with avoiding high risks with our Owner's wealth, very much in the same way that we expect rational plans for putting our money to work (not unreasonable risks in hopes of a quick payoff) whenever we seek the advice of a financial planner. Regardless of whether we feel comfortable with the prospect of stock investing or not, we must commit ourselves to making responsible plans if we wish to have a naturally, spiritually and financially thriving future!

“So, where does the money come from?”

The money comes from those who sit in the pews, and they will always appreciate any updates on the Church's financial situation. With the assistance of technology, some pastors have discovered this important rule and have gone as far as to utilize slide presentations or graphics in the layout of the Sunday morning bulletin. These presentations visually portray the intent and purpose of each budget item.

Through such visuals, the members immediately connect and identify with the items (and vision) and to clearly see how they fit into the total mission of the Church! With this in mind, remember: People will always give to what they can see!



This Issues of Best Suggestions

1) You can save money each month by reducing the interest rate on your home equity credit line. You might have a little less leverage than you would with a credit card company but it is not unheard of for a bank to help you save in this way.

2) Start shopping for Christmas now. It may seem a little premature, you may even be tightening the purse strings after spoiling the kids all summer, but buying a few presents here and there will take the sting out when December comes around. Right now, there's hundreds of sales on across the high street/internet, you could be picking presents up for next to nothing.

3) Don't just jump in the car...walk. If you're only heading round to the local store, why bother driving there? It will cost you money in gas and it's a bit lazy. So, to save yourself money here, you should walk. Not only will you save a bit of cash, but it will also keep you fit...there's nothing like a nice walk to get some fresh air!



EVEN Preachers Cry and Lose Family Members

by Chandra Cooper

Pastor William Wright Sr. is by all means a true son of the Church of God In Christ. He has spent his entire life in the ministry. His family legacy with the church can be traced back to the days of the late Bishop Charles Harrison Mason.

His calling from God is to save lives...But what happens when you can't save the very thing that you love the most; your own child?

In this in-depth interview about his ministry, life, love, and the death of his beloved son, Pastor William Wright Sr. of Memphis Tennessee shares his life and personal testimony. He shares his story with The Whole Truth through admirable courage and transparency.

TWT: Pastor Wright, please share with us what happened to your son Bill?

PASTOR WRIGHT: My son and I were very close. Most people in the church knew him because he was with me in all of the meetings. He went everywhere with me. I started noticing changes and my wife started noticing the changes. My son got addicted to cocaine. When I finally confronted and talked to him about it, he was straightforward with me, admitting that he had a problem. Flying under the radar, he said, "Dad, I didn't want to bring any shame on you."

TWT: How did you feel when you initially found out your son was using drugs?

PASTOR WRIGHT: I think that basically leaders are a prime target. Whatever Satan can utilize, he's going to utilize. Whatever is closest and nearest to you, he will try to cause shame, bring shame or destroy "Ministers".

Sometimes the preachers kids (PK's) feel like because they are raised in the House of Holiness, that they are exempt from demonic attacks. These kinds of scenarios arise, especially dealing with issues such as substance abuse. As a result, embarrassment comes and a lot of people do not deal with it properly because of the fact that we don't ever want anyone to think that this could transpire in our families. My son dealt with that problem as well.

I know that sometimes when we get so religious we feel like, nothing can happen if you stay with God. There's nothing that can transpire. Just because you're saved doesn't mean that Satan relents his pursuit of you.

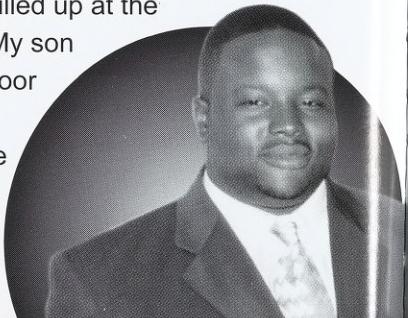
TWT: Talk to us about the night your son lost his life.

PASTOR WRIGHT: It was one of the most trying times. My only son, 27 years old. We had just gone through a double whammy because we had just buried Bishop Patterson

Saturday, March 20, 2007 and then my son died Monday April 2, 2007. It was back to back.

That night I was suppose to meet him downtown for dinner. We use to meet up regularly because each day he would call me and ask where I'm eating or what I'm doing. My wife was downtown at the condo. We own a condo on the river and another home in the city. He was at the house in the city and he called and said that he felt like he had indigestion. I noticed his voice was strange; and I said Bill was there anything going on. And he paused and said, "What, what do you mean dad?" I knew then something was wrong.

While I was waited on him, my wife said she was going home, because he didn't sound right. He wanted her to go by the Rite Aid to get something for indigestion, which she didn't feel she needed to do. By the time she had gotten home, he had dialed 911 himself, because of the rapidness of his heartbeat. They dispatched the medical personnel as well as the police department. My wife pulled up the same time as the police department pulled up. They got there before the paramedics. His best friend pulled up at the same time. My son opened the door not knowing that the police were there.



When the police came in, he was paranoid and started trying to close the door. They believe at that time he started hyper ventilating. As the police tried to handcuff him, he went into cardiac arrest and he died. That was how this story went. By the time I pulled up they were putting yellow tape around my home. The paramedic that stays across the street from my home said, "Bill's gone." I'm still wasn't catching it, because I didn't hear, what I'm wanted to hear, I could not grasp it.

TWT: So your son died in your home that night right in front of your wife?

PASTOR WRIGHT: My wife and I say all the time she watched him come into this world and she watched him go out. Literally. She was right there with him when he died. She's extremely strong through that; but of course, she has had some trying times. It's not a day that goes by that we do not think about our son.

TWT: How do you find any comfort in this tragedy?

PASTOR WRIGHT: The only thing that I can get out of this that I can rejoice in is that as he was dying he was asking God to forgive him. My wife told the news crews that as well. The paramedics could not understand him, but I have a 911 tape. When my son called 911 he was actually on the tape and you could hear him asking God to forgive him, forgive him. I just believe that God said if you could come to me I would never cast you out. Despite of his circumstance and situation he had enough training to really know that he had to ask God to forgive him. That's the only relief I can say that I get out of this type of situation.



TWT: How has your wife been doing since the death of your son?

PASTOR WRIGHT: My wife is well. I try to keep her with me often. In the past when I was on the road before this situation happened, she could handle certain things. However, they were really close. Even though he and I were close, the bond they had was extraordinary. And so I try not to leave her alone that much for any long length of time. It's not good being in that big house all by her lonesome; it's just not good. So I try to take her many places with me.

TWT: Considering the fact that you have been married for more than 30-years, do you believe true love exists?

PASTOR WRIGHT: I have been married 38 years. We were high school sweet hearts. Someone asked me during a marriage counseling session, "How do you and your wife stay together?" I said, "You just learn to read the male. Not the m-a-i-l, but the m-a-l-e. You've got to learn to read the male. You've got to know who your male is and by the same token I've got to know who I'm dealing with." I told my congregation once that Sister Wright and I have never had one argument. We've had not one disagreement in over 37 years. But we have had one million and so the fact of the matter is that in spite of having these disagreements, I still love her, she's still my soul mate, she's still who God put me

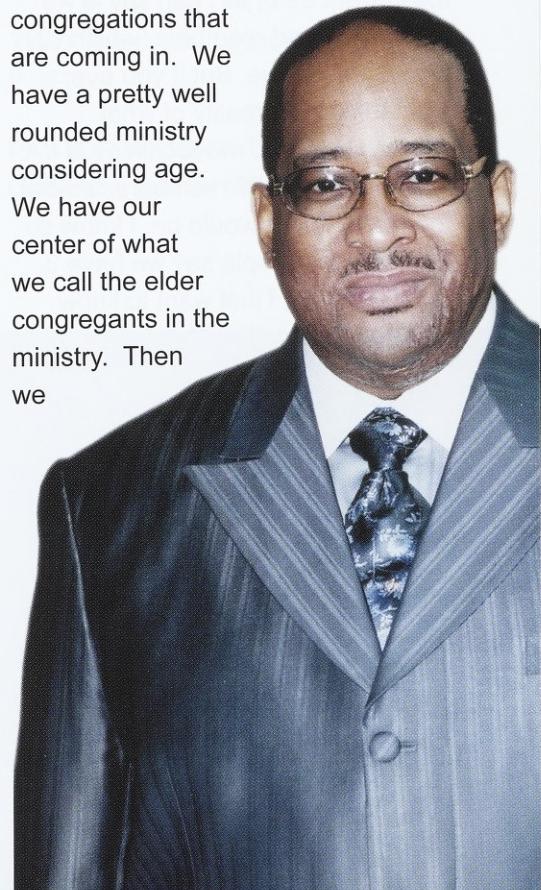
with and I ain't looking for somebody else and pray she ain't either.

TWT: Let's talk about your ministry. What's your mission right now?

PASTOR WRIGHT: My mission right now is to be assertive with what God has assigned to me. One great leader of the church once said stay in your lane. I believe in staying in my lane. I won't have a crash with anything else. So many times we try to emulate and imitate others. There's a young lady at my church and every email she sends me says, "Be yourself, for everyone else is taken." So there is no way I can be somebody else. I have to be who I am and operate in that capacity and in doing so it works for Liberty. It works for me.

TWT: (What is the question for this answer?)

PASTOR WRIGHT: I'm excited about the influx of the younger congregations that are coming in. We have a pretty well rounded ministry considering age. We have our center of what we call the elder congregants in the ministry. Then we





have a strong middle aged ministry. However, lately there have been a lot of young families that have been migrating towards Liberty. We are just excited about that.

TWT: Your church membership numbers are growing. Talk to us about the fellowship.

PASTOR WRIGHT: I have one church, two locations, there are active memberships. So many times in the church ranking people use numbers. And if I want to use a number as what I have from the inception of July 13, 1990 up until the current date, all I can say is we got 27 hundred members, which would not be true. But if you ever want to see the reality of what runs one church, two locations is approximately 627 members, is what the real number would be. I know so many times, people say we have 3, 4, 5 thousand, I just want to know where you're putting them at.

The Fellowship began in June 2006. June 2006 and God has blessed us tremendously in the fellowship of the churches we've invested in; in churches within the fellowship. Our fellowship was not designed to impose upon any jurisdiction. I went and spoke directly with every jurisdictional bishop at that time in the state. I spoke directly with the late Bishop W. L. Porter. I spoke

directly with Bishop Samuel Leon Lowe. I spoke directly with Bishop Scott and Bishop Felton Smith; the late Bishop J.O. Patterson Jr. and then I spoke with Bishop Jerry L. Maynard. And at the time that I spoke with each of them, there was no opposition to the fellowship being born. I gave them my word of how I would stay in my lane and so far that has been true. God has blessed us and I'm excited about it and looking forward to one day the fellowship becoming a viable jurisdiction in the Church of God in Christ.

TWT: It sounds like you're not afraid to break tradition. But you still value and rely on your foundation.

PASTOR WRIGHT: Love tradition, as long as tradition is beneficial. There comes a time when you can be traditional and yet be traditionally out of line. You can be sincere, I found out but yet you can be sincerely wrong. Then again, I'm not here to make assessments of difference between wrong and right. What works for us, is as long as we stay biblically in sync with the doctrine of the church. I am well satisfied.

TWT: You are a Son of the church?

PASTOR WRIGHT: You hear a lot of the COGIC people say; I'm born in the church. My roots are here. My grandfather the late Mr. William Wright who I was named after, was

one of Bishop Charles H. Mason's first deacons at the first office that he had at the temple when he organized here. Both my mother and father were lifelong COGIC members. And so my roots came from the South Side Church of God in Christ. What happened is after the death of Bishop Mason, my mother and father left to go with the late Elder C. H. Mims, who was an administrative assistant to Bishop Mason after he did not get the temple.

TWT: Tell us about your beloved relationship with the late Bishop G.E. Patterson.

PASTOR WRIGHT: I would say that was one of the most intriguing parts of my life. I loved him so much. We go back so many years. When you talk about the master mentor; I want to take time to just say that I give so much credibility to the success of my ministry, to the teaching, to the training and to the advice and the guidance that G. E. Patterson provided. I think about Bishop G.E. Patterson; he was a very integral part of the survival of our ministry.

TWT: You were a personal driver for Bishop G. E. Patterson as well. Share with us the terrifying story about the night you lost control of the vehicle while driving.

PASTOR WRIGHT: We got through with Bishop Prescott Thursday. We drove non-stop from Newark, New Jersey headed back to Memphis and I basically was sleeping from Newark, New Jersey until we got to Knoxville, Tennessee. I had been driving for 40 minutes or so. We were just talking the three of us; Bishop Patterson was in the passenger seat and Spike was in the back seat. As we were talking Spike said something funny and when he did I threw my head to laugh and that was the last thing I remember. I went out; when I came to, Bishop Patterson had his left hand on the steering wheel and his right hand on the gear shift. He had pulled it into neutral and my foot was all the way into the accelerator. At an extended acceleration tractor trailer trucks had crossed the interstate to prevent others from coming into us; and I was all over the interstate. So I felt that something was sitting in my chest at that time and broke out into a sweat. But nevertheless when I got to the hospital, they put the heart monitor things on me for about a week, just due to stress. It was over a 3000 or 3200 mile trip we did within that span of time. Bishop stayed calm through the whole process and so I've learned that there's some instances where if it had not have been for God I would not be here with you giving this interview.

TWT: What was the most important thing you learned from Bishop G.E. Patterson?

Pastor Wright: Bishop Patterson told me several times that when God orders your steps and when God has made you promises, you won't die until he fulfills his promise; I've learned that through that process.

TWT: What do you see next for the next National Church?

PASTOR WRIGHT: There are a lot of stigmas attached to this church. Now we have the finest hour to prove to ourselves that those stigmas are either false or either we're going to prove that those stigmas are right. So I think that in order to make this church become more assertive, make this church become, as if we are going to become global. I think we are going to become global, but yet keep our respect of who we are. Yet we can be accepted, but I don't think we should ever lose who or what we are. We are unique people. I think right now, we may be too busy trying to imitate and emulate. Why don't we let other folks imitate and emulate us? Just be who we are.

TWT: With that being said we are all human, we can all make mistakes and preachers have problems too. Can you elaborate on that?

PASTOR WRIGHT: Sometimes with our guidelines and with our initiatives we can almost create a form of hypocrisy; you almost force a person to be a hypocrite. In a point if you do have a problem you can't expose it, because if you expose it you are somewhat condemned. We have no outlet if a preacher is on drugs. He almost has to live with a mask on because if he testifies to that you can stick a fork in him- he's done. For the most part, let's say he has marital problems or situations that transpire

and sure enough we should be held to a higher standard. I agree with that and there are consequences for actions that are inappropriate to ministers [not making an excuse for any type of inappropriate behavior], but if a man sins do we condemn him to the point that he can never rise? Or if a man sins we do have an advocate, he's that lawyer, he's propitiation he's our substitute, which is Jesus. Yes let's restore him, most of the time we go past that, if your brother is over taken in a fall which is the spiritual, we that speak in tongues, we that shout, we that preach the walls down; why don't we go and restore him? But the point is, one of the worst words I hate to use and hate to hear in church, is they gone kill him. He's dead. That's not a term that should be used among brothers or sisters in church. I think we should have a term where we can call restoration. I'm not saying just because Jesse James got saved you put him as governor of the money; but, I still say that Jesse James ought to be able to come in and be a part of the fellowship.

TWT: Thank you so much for your time.

PASTOR WRIGHT: Thank you and God bless you for having me.





Wisdom from the Bosom

by Mother Diana Banks

In this edition of The Whole Truth Magazine I wanted to "WOW" you with testimonies of "women of wisdom" who are going through life as victorious leaders. The true testimony of an "effective" leader is when they retire from the reins the work does not cease, but it continues to grow and evolve into an even greater work. I'm reminded of our greatest example of Leadership: Jesus Christ. Great leaders follow effective examples and Jesus prior to his ascension to the Father left on record these encouraging words: "...He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall ye do; because I go unto the Father." (John 14:12 KJV) I want to introduce you to two phenomenal women in their own rights. These women are doing "greater" works and

will empower you with practical wisdom nuggets to ponder for years to come. Mother Charlotte Brandon is a member of the Department of Women, Executive Board and the former Supervisor of the Oregon First Jurisdiction in Portland, Oregon. She is the founder of the group, Mothers of Professional Basketball Players. The true testimony of a "great" leader is when they are gone from the organization the work does not fall apart. The NBA Mother's Club is still going strong long after "Charlotte" has moved on.

Lastly, I thought it would be worth hearing what we as young women have to look forward to as we age gracefully. After all there is plenty of good life after the age of 80 years old. Just ask this dynamic and vibrant 85 years young lady: Mother Lucille Spann. Mother Spann, a bishop's wife widow, was the National Hospitality President for over

37 years, and currently serves as the Vice Chair to the second highest board in the Department of Women: the Advisory Board. She has been a faithful member of the Church Of God In Christ for over 60 years! If you missed the 61st Annual International Women's Convention, you missed the Symposium treat, where Mother Spann provided wisdom nuggets on how to survive "widowhood." She'll be long remembered for this quote: "Don't bake another pie, nor fry another chicken until you know where the money is!"

Now, relax and enjoy wisdom nuggets from our "WOW" (Women of Wisdom) Saints..... As they share how the glass is half full verses half empty, understanding that leadership is all about how YOU see your glass!



► Supervisor Charlotte Brandon, Portland, Oregon

My favorite scripture, Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding , in all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy path has carried me through the best and most challenging times of my life! Some would say that being diagnosed with cancer twice is unfortunate and disappointing; however I choose to believe that God has entrusted me with a seemingly difficult situation because He knows that I will recall all of the miraculous things He has done for me in the past and therefore rely on Him and His faithfulness to see me through.

Today, as in the Bible Days, God uses situations, issues and people to demonstrate His power and authority.

Being one of His children and a student of the Word I have taken to heart His love for me and know that the cancer He allowed to enter my body was only a chapter in my life story and like the butterfly, I have overcome hardships of the past and illness to soar, tell of His goodness and what He will do for those that love and are committed to Him in their everyday lives and genuinely concerned about the building of His Kingdom.

I love the Lord and because of Him I have control of the cancer it does not have control of me! Instead, like the fictional character "The Bionic Woman" I am naturally and spiritually stronger and better than ever and leave these three nuggets for men and women everywhere:

Let the God in you control the situation/issue to prevent the situation/issue from controlling you!

By faith learn to trust that God knows all about you and if allowed will position you to demonstrate His glory and power.

Always know and BELIEVE that God has your best interest at heart and is with you in every aspect of your life.

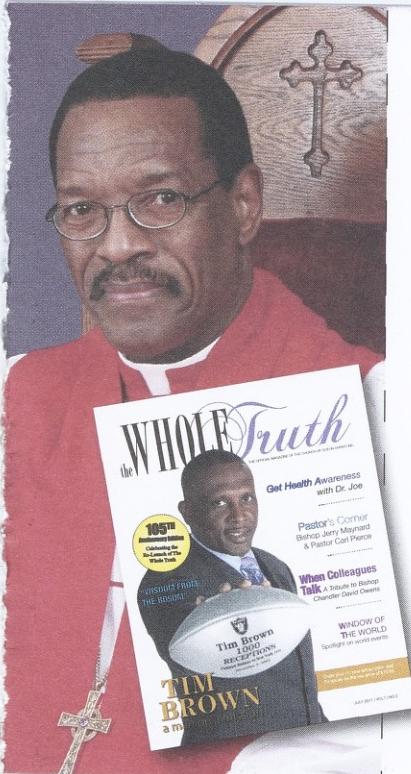
Because of the above I have overcome numerous challenges and yet stand to declare God's love and care with special emphasis on women and as a result He has allowed me to launch the Women Are Worthy Foundation!

on a Scale of 1 to 10

such words as flab, flops, creeks now that I am older have suddenly became "character lines," and I seem to have a lot of character lately. You won't believe it, after 80 some things don't make it to the scale of 1-10 lists.

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I'm a ten not a zero.



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Wisdom from the Bosom

by Mother Diana Banks

In this edition of The Whole Truth Magazine I wanted to "WOW" you with testimonies of "women of wisdom" who are going through life as victorious leaders. The true testimony of an "effective" leader is when they retire from the reins the work does not cease, but it continues to grow and evolve into an even greater work. I'm reminded of our greatest example of Leadership: Jesus Christ. Great leaders follow effective examples and Jesus prior to his ascension to the Father left on record these encouraging words: "...He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall ye do; because I go unto the Father." (John 14:12 KJV) I want to introduce you to two phenomenal women in their own rights. These women are doing "greater" works and

will empower you with practical wisdom nuggets to ponder for years to come. Mother Charlotte Brandon is a member of the Department of Women, Executive Board and the former Supervisor of the Oregon First Jurisdiction in Portland, Oregon. She is the founder of the group, Mothers of Professional Basketball Players. The true testimony of a "great" leader is when they are gone from the organization the work does not fall apart. The NBA Mother's Club is still going strong long after "Charlotte" has moved on.

Lastly, I thought it would be worth hearing what we as young women have to look forward to as we age gracefully. After all there is plenty of good life after the age of 80 years old. Just ask this dynamic and vibrant 85 years young lady: Mother Lucille Spann. Mother Spann, a bishop's wife widow, was the National Hospitality President for over

37 years, and currently serves as the Vice Chair to the second highest board in the Department of Women: the Advisory Board. She has been a faithful member of the Church Of God In Christ for over 60 years! If you missed the 61st Annual International Women's Convention, you missed the Symposium treat, where Mother Spann provided wisdom nuggets on how to survive "widowhood." She'll be long remembered for this quote: "Don't bake another pie, nor fry another chicken until you know where the money is!"

Now, relax and enjoy wisdom nuggets from our "WOW" (Women of Wisdom) Saints..... As they share how the glass is half full verses half empty, understanding that leadership is all about how YOU see your glass!



Supervisor Charlotte Brandon, Portland, Oregon

My favorite scripture, Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding , in all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy path has carried me through the best and most challenging times of my life! Some would say that being diagnosed with cancer twice is unfortunate and disappointing; however I choose to believe that God has entrusted me with a seemingly difficult situation because He knows that I will recall all of the miraculous things He has done for me in the past and therefore rely on Him and His faithfulness to see me through.

Today, as in the Bible Days, God uses situations, issues and people to demonstrate His power and authority.

Being one of His children and a student of the Word I have taken to heart His love for me and know that the cancer He allowed to enter my body was only a chapter in my life story and like the butterfly, I have overcome hardships of the past and illness to soar, tell of His goodness and what He will do for those that love and are committed to Him in their everyday lives and genuinely concerned about the building of His Kingdom.

I love the Lord and because of Him I have control of the cancer it does not have control of me! Instead, like the fictional character "The Bionic Woman" I am naturally and spiritually stronger and better than ever and leave these three nuggets for men and women everywhere:

Let the God in you control the situation/issue to prevent the situation/issue from controlling you!

By faith learn to trust that God knows all about you and if allowed will position you to demonstrate His glory and power.

Always know and BELIEVE that God has your best interest at heart and is with you in every aspect of your life.

Because of the above I have overcome numerous challenges and yet stand to declare God's love and care with special emphasis on women and as a result He has allowed me to launch the Women Are Worthy Foundation!

LIFE AFTER 80 - On a Scale of 1 to 10



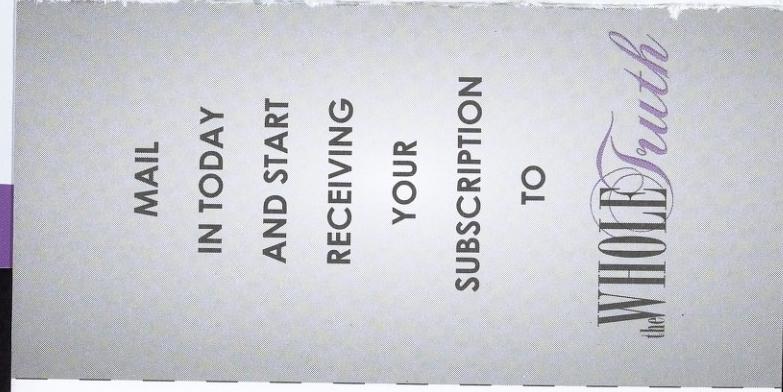
Mother Lucille Spann
Vice Chair,
Advisory Board

People and things seem to change after 80. Me, for one thing, while many have remained young looking, I've noticed that a little reality goes a long way towards restoring a balance, between the young and the old. In all of my contact with seniors in workshops I've known only two who had no tears about moving on and said so quite honestly. One of them impatient with the outpouring of the status of sainthood that others had placed on being young said she was "in the wrong place. I didn't have it good like all of you and I don't miss being young that much."

There is nothing wicked in admitting a sense of relief that a long imprisoning adherence to rules and roles established by the young is over. I wish it were not so, but we do think of life in absolute terms: The opposite of being young is being old. In this mood you won't believe it, but definitions to words have changed. What I used to call when I was younger

such words as flab, flops, creeks now that I am older have suddenly became "character lines," and I seem to have a lot of character lately. You won't believe it, after 80 some things don't make it to the scale of 1-10 lists.

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Medical Moment

Coronary Disease Prevalence Declines in US, but not among Minorities Races

The prevalence of Coronary Heart Disease has had a decreasing prevalence in America over the last several years. Between the years 2006 and 2010, fewer Americans have died from Heart Disease (CHD). As good as that news appears to be, the unfortunate truth is that Native Americans including Alaskan Natives, then Black Americans followed by Hispanics have made the least significant improvement in the prevalence of CHD. While we all could speculate on the reasons for such a disparity, the glaring fact is that somehow, segments of the population and our community, and implicitly, OUR CHURCH, do not accept the need to constrict to a healthy lifestyle!

Regardless to the variables that might skew the data, we must be accountable for our health. Simple lifestyle adjustments can save our physical lives:

- Exercise enough to break a sweat for at least a half hour three times a week... doesn't matter what kind of exercise you perform, or how strenuous... **BREAK A SWEAT!**
- Walk at a brisk pace, Treadmill, Bicycle, Jog, Water Exercise... even play your favorite fast pace music tune and COGIC Dance to the music!
- Cut the sweets, drink more water and monitor your carbs
- Men: Get your WAIST size under 40 inches
- Follow COGIC's Morality Teachings



We can impact the disparate trend of improved health by taking an active role in our own lives!

Elton Amos, MD
Director, COGIC Global Health and Wellness

VOTE ERIC W. SLACK FOR VICE CHAIR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PASTOR OF DAVIS MEMORIAL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

Currently has 20 years of service as the Parliamentarian of the General Assembly
Currently has 20 years of service on the Executive Committee of the General Assembly
Currently has 10 years of service on the Executive Committee on the Church Of God In Christ Leadership Conference
Currently serves as Special Assistant to Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake
Served as Special Assistant of the Church Of God In Christ Constitutional Convention in 2004 in St. Louis, MO
Currently serves as a member of the Church Of God In Christ Publishing Board
Served on the General Assembly Rules Committee
Served on the General Assembly Job Descriptions and Remunerations Committee
Served on the General Assembly Committee to codify the Constitution
Graduate of the University of Toledo College of Law 1985
Graduate of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 1982
Graduate Harvard University Kennedy School of Business Executive Leadership Training Course, Boston, MA 1997
Former Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Lucas County, Toledo, Ohio
Married 21 years to Cheryl L. Slack, granddaughter of the late Bishop O. T. Jones, Sr., Second Senior Bishop.
Father of Sydni E. Slack, Sophomore, Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH



Church Of God In Christ, I am soliciting your vote for Vice Chair of the General Assembly of the Church. Having served more than 20 years as the Parliamentarian of the General Assembly, I am in the unique position of maintaining a working knowledge of the Constitution of the Church Of God In Christ, Roberts Rules of Order and the history of our General Assembly. I have served as a Special Assistant to the Constitutional Convention in 2004 and numerous General Assembly Committees during the tenure of 4 Presiding Bishops and 3 General Assembly Chairmen. As a 4th Generation Son of the Church Of God In Christ, I am convinced our great Church has a rich tradition and firm foundation. I want to be part of its future as we build on such a great heritage.



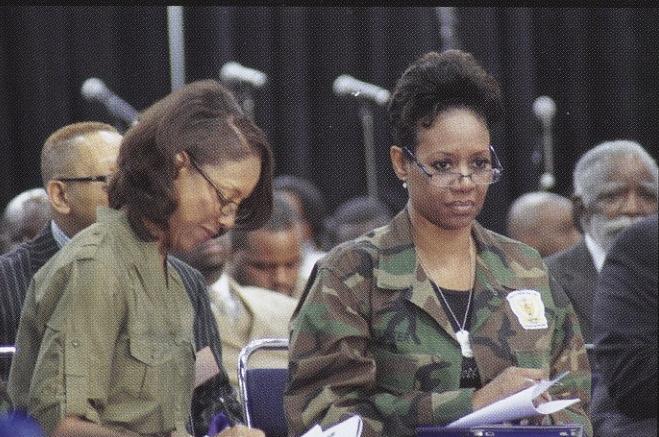
Superintendent James G. Stolger



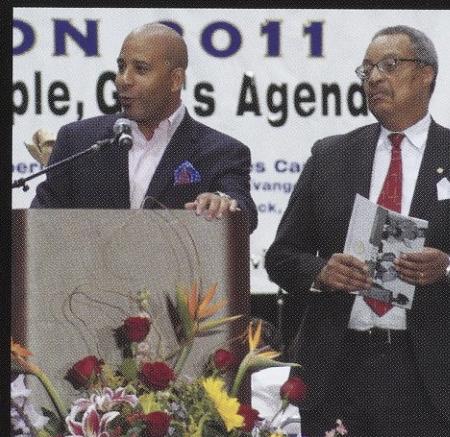
2011 Young Women of Excellence Court



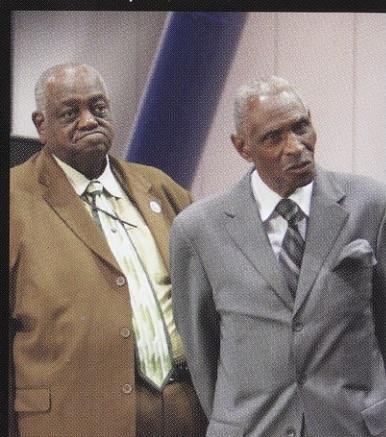
Elected Lady Rita Womack



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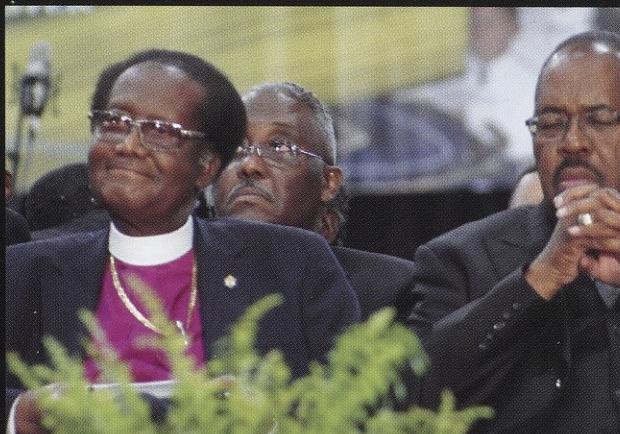
Bishop J. Drew Sheard, Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr.



President Linwood Dillard, Jr., President Willie James Campbell, Bishops: Alton Gatlin, Carlis L. Moody, Sr., Roy Dixon, J. Drew Sheard



Field Representative Georgia Macklin-Lowe



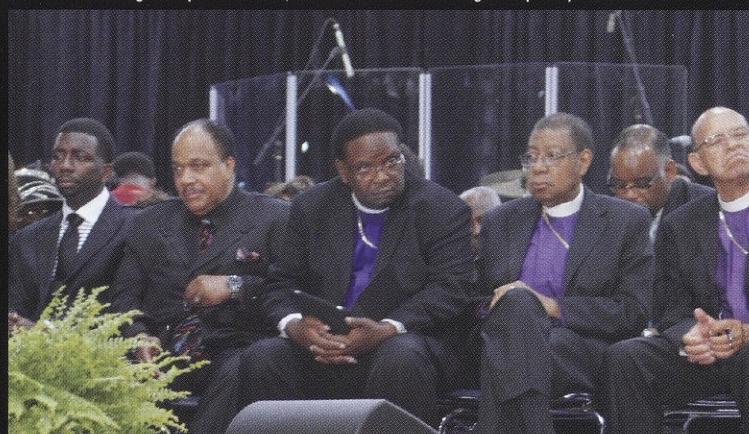
First Assistant Presiding Bishop P. H. Brooks, Second Assistant Presiding Bishop Jerry W. Macklin



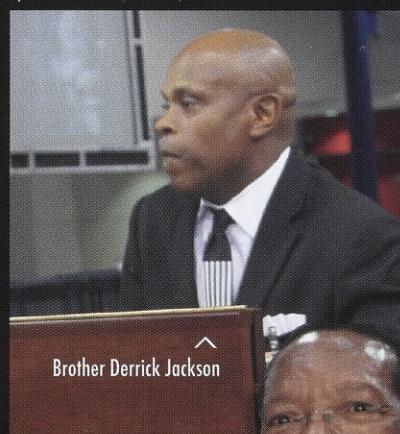
Supervisor Lee Van Zandt, Mother Beatrice Black



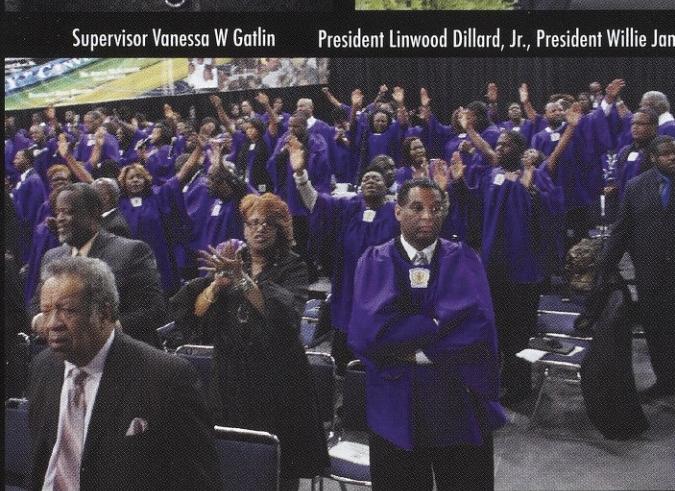
Supervisor Vanessa W Gatlin



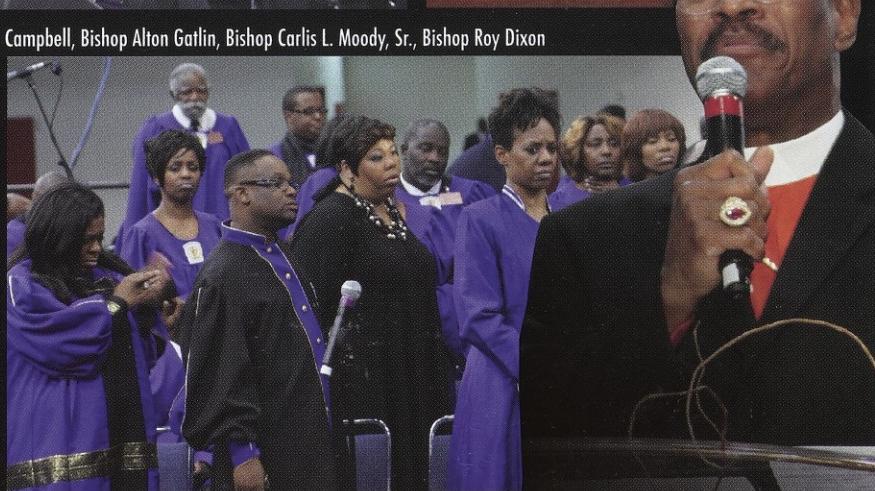
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Brother Derrick Jackson



Psalmist Bettye R Nelson, Brother Ron Jones



Vice-President Kim Burrell, Vice-President Edgar Madison,
President Judith Christine McAlister

Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr.

THE FIRST 100 YEARS

by O. Wiggins



It began in a single living room, moved to an abandoned gin house along a little creek and now has expanded to every continent around the world.

Indeed, the Church Of God In Christ has made significant strides since its inception in 1897 when Elder Charles H. Mason, Elder C.P. Jones and others brought 60 people together as charter members to form the Church of God, and subsequently the Church Of God In Christ.

Today, about six million people fill the pews of Church Of God In Christ churches, making it the nation's largest black Pentecostal body and the fourth largest Protestant body in the country.

As the Church marks nearly 105 years as an incorporated body and continues into the next century, it's worth reflecting on the Church's past, its present and its future.

In an interview earlier this year with

cogic.com, Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake said the most defining historical moment for the Church was in 1907 when Bishop Mason organized the Church Of God In Christ around the doctrine

of the in filling of the Holy Spirit and the sign and seal of speaking in other tongues.

He said the Church emerging as a holiness group in 1897 was significant, but, "I think our distinctive contribution has been made in the area of advocating and propagating the doctrine of the baptism of the Holy Ghost."

And the one thing that originally made the Church different is also the one thing that ultimately led to its division.

Elder Mason returned from Los Angeles, California, after receiving the Holy Ghost, looking forward to proclaiming the New Testament doctrine and incorporating it in the Church.

But some of his fellow ministers mocked the Holy Ghost experience, which led to a separation in the body.



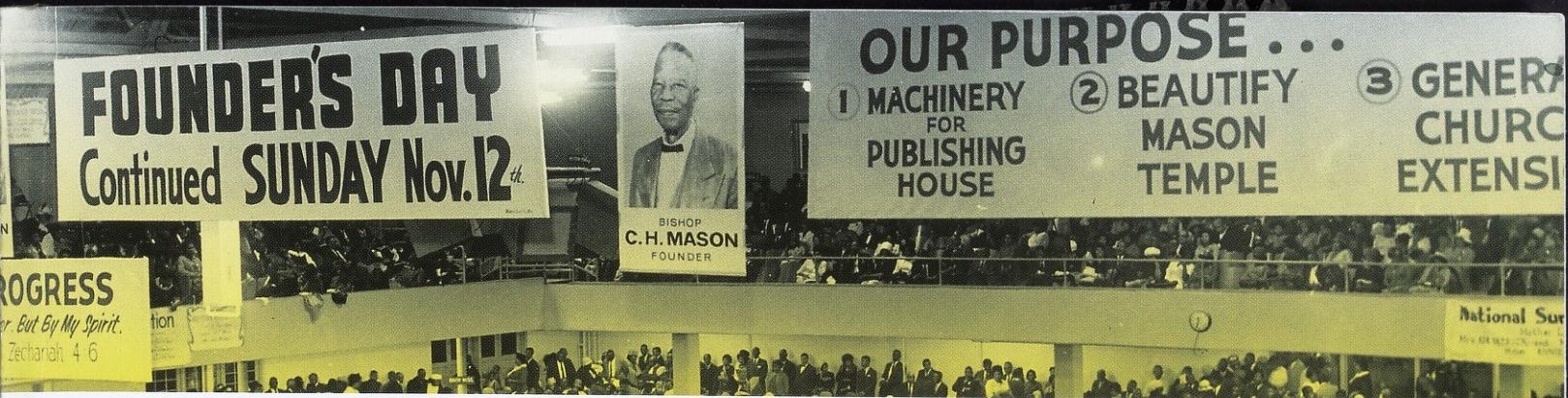
Elder Mason was removed by the General Assembly, but he kept the incorporated name of the Church and called a meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, of all ministers who believed in the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

It became the first Pentecostal General Assembly of the Church, and Elder Mason was unanimously chosen to become **Bishop Mason** - the General Overseer and Chief Apostle of the denomination. In that role, he was given authority to establish doctrine, organize auxiliaries and appoint overseers, according to church historians.

David Daniels, the chair of the Education Board for the Church Of God In Christ and the Henry Winters Luce Chair of World Christianity at McCormick Theological Seminary, said the governance of the Church in 1907 consisted of the senior bishop, the General Assembly and the overseers over the states.

"Even then there was the idea that all the power could not be in the hands of the bishop and overseers, but that the General Assembly, which was known as the Elders Council, served as the place for putting people on trial for ethics, infractions or setting policies for the church," he said.

After being named General Overseer, **Bishop Mason** dedicated 20 days - Nov. 25 through Dec. 14 - each year to fellowship and conduct business pertaining to the national organization.



The annual meeting continues in November.

“ Dad Mason sanctified those dates. He called it a Holy Convocation,” said **Bishop Nathaniel W. Wells**, a member of the **General Board**. “Most of the other denominations have a convention. But this was for a sacred purpose. He was calling together God’s people to a holy place to remember the Holy Ghost experience. We became a holy pentecostal church.” **”**

Raynard Smith, who teaches pastoral care at New Brunswick Theological Seminary and attends Greater Harvest Evangelistic Church Of God In Christ in Newark, New Jersey, said Bishop Mason created a “sacred space for all people, but particularly African Americans” when the Church was originally formed.

“This was a time when people were being dehumanized outside the church,” he said, referring to the early days of Church. “But inside, they were called saints. And not just saints, but saints of the most High God.”

Bishop Blake told cobic.com that he sees “the church standing by its foundational teachings and doctrines” as it moves into the future.

“I see the church continuing to worship and love our God with passion and with fervor,” Bishop Blake said. “And I see us pursuing the mission of the church, which is to win the lost, to edify the believer and to bring glory to our God.”

Meanwhile, there are those who worry that the Church has strayed away from what Bishop Mason intended for it. And others who say the Church is grappling with holiness in the 21st century.

David Daniels said one of the biggest challenges facing the Church is “how to find a profound way of talking about holiness in the 21st century. That’s our struggle.”

Bishop Wells said he thinks Bishop Mason would be unhappy with what he would see of today’s Church.

“What I see happening is that we are moving away from our holiness roots, becoming more charismatic,” he said. “People are being saved, but their lives are not sanctified.” **Bishop Wells** said the shift in focus has caused “so much immorality toward us. Lawsuits coming against us.” Raynard Smith agreed that some would probably say Bishop Mason would be displeased with the Church and others, he said, might say Bishop Mason might not even recognize the Church of today.

There was a time when the Church was against going to the movie theater and women wearing make-up, jewelry and pants, he said.

“The church is] not bad, it’s just different,” he said. “The church has evolved. The church should evolve. It’s not that we have conformed to the standards of the world. It’s just an evolution.”

Raynard Smith said the Church leaders continue to fight for social justice, much like Bishop Mason did. For example, Bishop Blake has made public pronouncements on the debt ceiling, healthcare and Haiti just as Bishop Mason called on the Church to boycott the buses and spoke against wars.

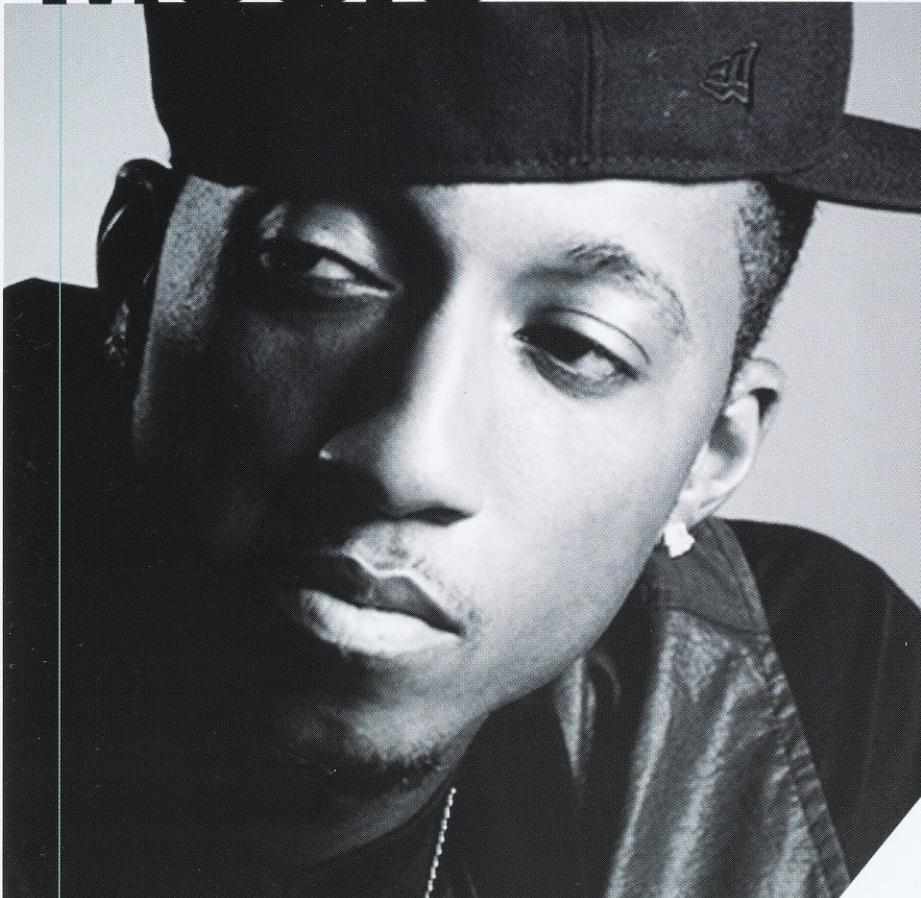
“The problem today is that we don’t have a forum to make people aware of that fight,” Raynard Smith said. “Bishops need to be informed so that filters down from the jurisdictions to our local churches.”

Bishop Blake told cobic.com in February that he expects technology to play a huge role in advancing the Church’s mission.

“I see us doing most of our educational endeavors on the internet and online,” he said. “I see us streaming our conventions and our church services online, impacting the world in a very targeted way.”

Bishop Wells said he likes the idea of incorporating technology into the church’s mission and he thinks Bishop Mason would be pleased with the Church’s use of technology. Still, he said: “With all the technology, I just hope we don’t lose the spirituality.”

MUSIC MATTERS



LECRAE

At first listen of Lecrae, it is clear that he may be one of the most innovative gospel artists of this generation. Bringing to the forefront the genre of gospel rap and mainstreaming what has been regarded as looked over or unappreciated, Lecrae is continually striving to bring his style of praise to the next level of awareness amongst today's church audience. With his polished rhymes and relatable content, the urban world is also starting to take a new look at the world of gospel rap music. Undoubtedly bringing the music to the masses, he has been afforded the opportunity to make such features and appearances with the BET Hip Hop Awards International cypher and NBC day time television. Blessed with the accomplishment of being the first hip-hop artist to top the gospel charts and receiving Grammy nominations, it seems rapper Lecrae is here to stay for a very long time; proclaiming the gospel in his own special way.

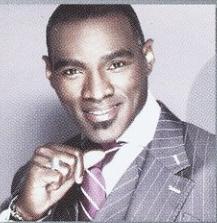


KIERRA SHEARD

COGIC's own Kierra Sheard strikes musical gold with her latest album release, *Free*. The album which is filled of potent lyrics and awesome production gives listeners just the right dose of gospel greatness. We are convinced this album is a

must buy.

KIERRA SHEARD



Earnest PUGH

I NEED YOUR GLORY
Glory comes from a lifestyle ...hmmm



Isaac CARREE

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It's good to see R&B is still alive in the church



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SPIRITUAL ←
Are YOU spiritual?



Kirk FRANKLIN

ISMILE
Not quite Gospel but very inspirational. Do Ya Thang. Do ya Thing!!!

4

No. 5

YOLANDA ADAMS

BE STILL

Light the candles, time to slow dance



No. 6 MARVIN SAPP

HE HAS HIS HANDS ON YOU

If you lift your hands up high

No. 7 VaSHAWN MITCHELL

NOBODY GREATER

One of our own is at the top. He got it right. Nobody greater

No. 8 TRIN-I-TEE

OVER & OVER

Great music but it always sounds the same! Not necessarily a buy

No. 9 DORINDA CLARK COLE

BACK TO YOU

Number one song at Gold's gym.

No. 10 KIM BURRELL

SWEETER

Is this the way of the music department? (see video)

Billboard

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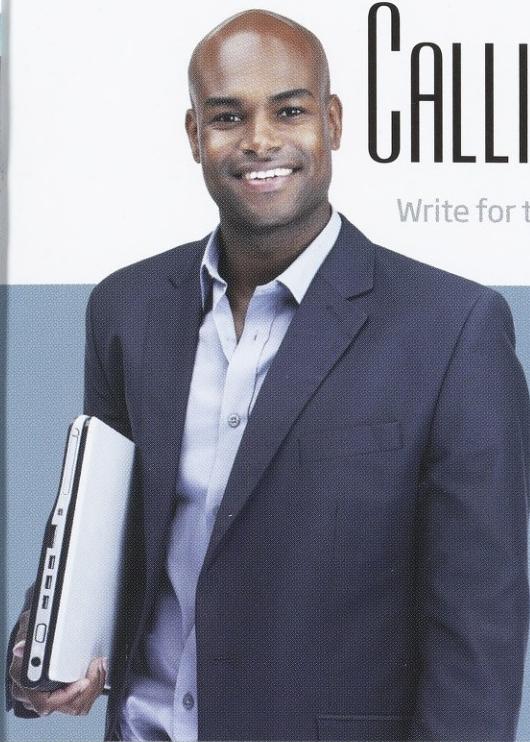
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